THE NEW
INDIAN EXPRESS

BENGALURU • FRIDAY • MAY 02, 2025 • ₹9.00 • PAGES 36 • LATE CITY EDITION

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GROSS GST COLLECTIONS CLOCK ALL-TIME HIGH OF ₹2.36 LAKH CRORE

Goods and Services Tax collections rose 12.6% year-on-year to an all-time high of ₹2.37 L cr in April, with a net mop-up of ₹1.92 L cr

DOMESTIC REVENUE RISES TO ₹1.9 LAKH CRORE

GST revenue from domestic transactions rose 10.7% to about ₹1.9 lakh crore, while revenue from imported goods was up 20.8% to ₹46,913 crore. "The figures showcase the resilience of the Indian economy and the effectiveness of cooperative federalism," Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman said, while expressing her gratitude to the taxpayers | **P10**

'OVERALL OUTLOOK REMAINS OPTIMISTIC'

- Central GST collection from domestic transactions stood at ₹48,634 crore in April, while state GST mop-up was ₹59,372 crore
- While a moderation in absolute GST collections is anticipated next month due to the global economic climate, the overall outlook for Indian economy is optimistic, said EY Tax Partner Saurabh Agarwal

2.09
LAKH CRORE IS THE NET GST COLLECTION AFTER REFUNDS

CHENNAI ▪ MADURAI ▪ VIJAYAWADA ▪ BENGALURU ▪ KOCHI ▪ HYDERABAD ▪ VISAKHAPATNAM ▪ COIMBATORE ▪ KOZHIKODE ▪ THIRUVANANTHAPURAM ▪ BELAGAVI ▪ BHUBANESWAR ▪ SHIVAMOGGA ▪ MANGALURU ▪ TIRUPATI ▪ TIRUCHY ▪ TIRUNELVELI ▪ SAMBALPUR ▪ HUBBALLI ▪ DHARMAPURI ▪ KOTTAYAM ▪ KANNUR ▪ VILLUPURAM ▪ KOLLAM ▪ TADEPALLIGUDEM ▪ NAGAPATTINAM ▪ THRISSUR ▪ KALABURAGI

Hegseth backs India's right to defend itself

Global community needs to call out Pak's heinous terror acts: Rajnath to US def secy

MAYANK SINGH @ New Delhi

Rajnath Singh and Pete Hegseth

AMID rising tensions between India and Pakistan in the aftermath of the April 22 Pahalgam terror attack, the US on Thursday assured India that Washington supports New Delhi's right to defend itself.

The US stands in solidarity with India, US Secretary of Defense Pete Hegseth told Defence Minister Rajnath Singh on Thursday during a telephonic conversation. During the call, the two leaders discussed the Pahalgam terror attack, in which terrorists shot dead 26 people.

"The US Secretary of Defense Pete Hegseth called Defence Minister Rajnath Singh to express his sympathies and condolences for the tragic loss of innocent civilian lives in the recent dastardly attack by terrorists in Pahalgam, Jammu & Kashmir," the Ministry of Defence said.

"During the conversation, the Defence Minister told US Defence Secretary that Pakistan has a history of supporting, training and funding terrorist organisations," it added. Singh told Hegseth that Pakistan has been exposed as a rogue state, fuelling global terrorism, and destabilising the region. "The world can no longer turn a blind eye to terrorism," the defence minister told his American counterpart, while urging the global community to "explicitly and unequivocally condemn and call out" heinous acts of terrorism.

Hegseth's call to Rajnath comes after US Secretary of State Mark Rubio spoke to External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar urging India to de-escalate tensions in the South Asian region.

Shah vows to hunt down all terrorists

Union Home Minister Amit Shah on Thursday vowed to hunt down each and every terrorist involved in the Pahalgam attack and said all of them will be made answerable for the heinous act. Shah assured the government will not spare any terrorist

TERROR in KASHMIR

Veteran stars Mohanlal, Rajinikanth, Hema Malini, Chiranjeevi, Akshay Kumar and Mithun Chakraborty at the WAVES summit on Thursday | X

WAVES will serve as a major platform where creativity meets coding, software blends with storytelling, and art merges with augmented reality

Allu Arjun

Naga Chaitanya

KS Chithra

Shreya Ghoshal

MM Keeravani

Shah Rukh Khan

Deepika Padukone

Alia Bhatt

Aamir Khan

Pahalgam attack was barbaric and merciless... PM Narendra Modi is a fighter. He will meet any challenge... He will bring peace in J&K and glory to our country

Rajinikanth, Veteran star

Given the size and breadth of the creative opportunity that AI unlocks, it's fair to say that India's next growth will not be in software code but in creativity

Shantanu Narayen, Adobe

ORANGE ECONOMY TO MAKE WAVES: PM

SUDHIR SURYAWANSHI AND PARVEZ SULTAN @ Mumbai/ New Delhi

PRIME Minister Narendra Modi on Thursday exuded optimism about the growth of India's creative economy, saying it will in future hold a significant share in the country's GDP or Gross Domestic Product.

He was addressing the crème de la crème among artists and creators, policymakers and world leaders from the media and entertainment industry, at the inaugural of the first edition of the World Audio Visual and Entertainment Summit (WAVES) in Mumbai.

"Today, in Mumbai, artists, innovators, investors, and policymakers from over 100 countries have gathered under one roof. Together, they are laying the foundation for a global ecosystem that celebrates talent, creativity, and innovation on an international scale... India is emerging as a global hub for film production, digital content, gaming, fashion, music and live concerts... This is the dawn of the Orange Economy in India," said Modi.

Orange economy is a global phrase that encapsulates the creative sector. Modi said India's Orange Economy stands on three strong pillars — content, creativity, and culture. In the coming years, the country's creative economy will hold a significant share in the GDP.

This newspaper was the first to report in July last year that the government planned to host WAVES on the lines of the annual World Economic Forum held in Davos to establish India as a global content hub.

The global animation market is currently worth over $430 billion and is expected to double in the next 10 years. The WAVES summit will open new doors of success for India's animation and graphics industry, he said, adding this was the right time for "create in India, create for world".

Modi underscored India's deep-rooted artistic and spiritual heritage. Indian mythology has always expressed divinity through music and dance, he said, citing Lord Shiva's *damru* (drum) as the first cosmic sound, Goddess Saraswati's veena as the rhythm of wisdom, Lord Krishna's flute as an eternal message of love, and Lord Vishnu's *shankha* (conch) as a call for positive energy.

"In India, growth has been witnessed in the OTT platform. The screen size may be getting smaller but the scope is infinite. The screen is getting micro, but the message is mega so youth can play a major role," the prime minister said, adding there are no boundaries or baggage in the youth's spirit and working style.

Crème de la crème of creative sector in attendance

Veteran actor Anupam Kher outlined the vision behind the WAVES initiative. Singers M M Keeravani, Shreya Ghoshal and Mangli performed the welcome song. WAVES advisory board members, including Mohanlal, Hema Malini, Kartik Aaryan, S S Rajamouli, Rajinikanth, Anil Kapoor, Bhumi Pednekar, Ranbir Kapoor, Aamir Khan, Reliance chairman Mukesh Ambani and Adobe CEO Shantanu Narayen shared their thoughts during the event

SC: DON'T DEMORALISE FORCES DURING CRISIS

SUCHITRA KALYAN MOHANTY @ New Delhi

THE Supreme Court on Thursday refused to examine a PIL seeking a judicial probe into the April 22 Pahalgam terror attack, saying such petitions could demoralise the defence forces fighting terrorism.

A bench of justices Surya Kant and Justice N Kotiswar Singh also castigated the petitioners for seeking a commission headed by a retired SC judge saying judges are not experts in investigation.

The plea was filed by Mohammad Junaid, a resident of Kashmir, along with Fatesh Kumar Sahu and Vicky Kumar.

"Be responsible before filing such PILs. You have some duty towards the country also. This is the way you are trying to demoralize the forces in this hour of crisis and juncture?" the bench said.

Refusing to pass any orders on the PIL, the bench said: "Tell us, since when have retired High Court and Supreme Court judges become experts in investigation? We only decide disputes... Don't ask us to pass orders on such kinds of petitions. Don't ask to pass orders for the Supreme Court judge to investigate."

The SC asked the petitioners to realise the sensitivity of the issue and not make any prayer in the court that may demoralise the forces. "This is a crucial hour when every Indian has joined hands to fight terrorism," it said.

The counsel for the petitioner, then, pleaded for directions to protect Kashmiri students studying outside Jammu and Kashmir.

The bench was unmoved and declined to entertain the plea, but allowed the petitioner to withdraw the plea.

Underground concrete layer cause for B'luru floods

BOSKY KHANNA @ Bengaluru

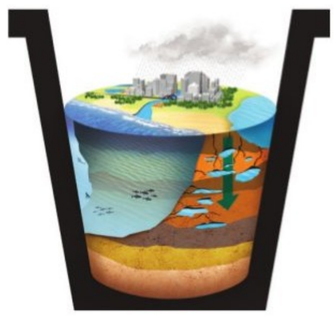
THE problem of flooding is likely to haunt the state capital for years to come whenever it rains heavily.

The reason: uncontrolled and unregulated construction activity over the decade, especially high-rise structures, has led to a 30 to 40-foot deep concrete layer under the city, preventing rainwater from percolating underground and contributing to flooding in various parts of the city, according to geologists and experts.

Worse, the increasing expanse of concrete layer is altering the natural slope and terrain across Bengaluru.

Sajeev Krishnan, professor, Department of Earth Sciences, Indian Institute of Science (IISc), said tall buildings, residential or commercial, not just have deep foundations now, but also multi-level basement (underground) car parking facilities. These foundations and underground parking spaces act as dams, impacting water percolation. This is one of the major reasons for urban flooding.

Krishnan pointed out that Bengaluru is around 1,000 metres above mean sea level on the Deccan Plateau, but the increasing construction activity has altered the natural topography. There is an urgent need to remap Bengaluru and ascertain the present day elevations as the old ones have lost relevance, he said.



TJ Renuka Prasad, retired professor of geology, Bangalore University, said this concrete layer is a result of increased and unplanned urbanisation. Bengaluru has become a victim of this due to the use of technology. The underground concrete layer, he said, is impacting natural subsurface aquifers and restricting groundwater recharge. The situation is worsening with deeper digging for structural foundations. This is also impacting the earth's natural fractures, making the damage irreparable. **P2**

₹10k bet: Kolar man dies after drinking over three quarters

V VELAYUDHAM @ Kolar

A 23-year-old man died after reportedly drinking three quarters (each quarter 180ml) and 90ml of raw whisky while partying with his friends at Poojarahalli village in Kolar district.

Though the incident took place a week ago, it came to light on Thursday. The deceased has been identified as **Karthik**, a resident of Poojarahalli in Nangli police limits.

It is said that during the party, Karthik challenged his friends that he can drink up to five quarters of liquor without diluting it with water or soda. One of his friends immediately announced that they would pay him Rs 10,000 if he succeeded.

Karthik accepted the bet and started drinking whisky. After drinking three quarters and 90ml, he felt uneasy and requested his friends for medical help.

Immediately, they rushed Karthik to the government hospital at Mulbagal, where he died. Sources said that Karthik got married last year and his wife gave birth to a baby just 10 days before the incident.

Superintendent of Police B Nikhil said the initial postmortem report confirmed that Karthik died of alcohol poisoning. "We are awaiting the final report. A case of unnatural death has been registered," he added.

EXPRESS READ

SSLC results to be announced today

Bengaluru: The SSLC (Class 10) results will be declared on Friday. School Education Minister Madhu Bangarappa will officially announce the results at 11.30 am. Students can check their results on the official website. This year, over 8.96 lakh students had appeared for the examinations, including over 4.61 lakh boys and 4.34 lakh girls, at 2,818 centres across the state | **P2**

WITH THIS ISSUE
CITY'S BEST WEEKEND GUIDE INDULGE
36 PAGES, INCLUDING 24 OF INDULGE (TABLOID)

Kharge wants caste census in 3 months

AICC chief Mallikarjun Kharge has demanded that the Centre begin the census within three months. Failure to do so, he warned, would expose the Centre's lack of seriousness and prove that the announcement was merely for show. Kharge asserted that the party leaders, including himself and Rahul Gandhi, had long been advocating for a caste census.

CM Siddaramaiah, AICC chief Mallikarjun Kharge and DCM DK Shivakumar arrive at an event in Bengaluru | NAGARAJA GADEKAL

Siddu says Centre declared caste census with eye on Bihar polls

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @ Bengaluru

CHIEF Minister Siddaramaiah on Thursday said Prime Minister Narendra Modi-led NDA government had decided to include caste enumeration in the census keeping in mind the coming Bihar Assembly elections. "In 2015 itself, our Congress government in Karnataka spent Rs 192 crore on conducting a socio, economical and educational survey. Inspired by this and keeping the Bihar elections in mind, the Union government had decided to conduct the census," he told reporters here.

Siddaramaiah said that he would give full credit to Rahul Gandhi, who had been seeking such a caste census for long, for the Union government's decision.

"I welcome the Union government's decision to include caste enumeration in the census. To ensure social justice to people, a social and educational survey should be conducted along with this census. The ceiling of 50% for extending reservation should be removed to make quota proportional to the population," he said.

Like Rahul Gandhi, he had also sought reservation in private educational institutions as per Article 15, Clause (5) of the Constitution, Siddaramaiah said.

He said that a decision on the socio-economic and educational survey (SES-2015) report will be taken at the cabinet meeting on May 9.

On whether the Centre's census will affect the state government's survey, he said it will not as the SES-2015 report has already been presented before the cabinet. The Centre is yet to conduct the census, he added. **P4**

Mob lynching case: Mangaluru rural inspector, two constables suspended

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @ Mangaluru

MANGALURU Rural police station inspector Shivakumar KR, head constable Chandra P and constable Yallalinga have been suspended in connection with the recent mob lynching case.

City police commissioner Anupam Agrawal issued the suspension order on Thursday. They have been suspended pending disciplinary action against them. The suspension order cited gross negligence by Shivakumar and two other police personnel and their failure to alert higher officials, despite having information about the mob lynching.

Deepak, a traffic head constable, had alerted the police about some cricket players and spectators assaulting a man. Also, while recording witness testimony or "panchanama", cricket players and spectators were made "panchas" or independent witnesses. Despite having information about mob lynching, the inspector failed to bring it to the notice of higher officials. They registered an unnatural death case initially and later converted it into a case of mob lynching, the order against Shivakumar stated.

The order against Chandra stated that Deepak had first informed him about mob lynching. But Chandra did not collect any further information nor informed higher officials.

Yallalinga was suspended for negligence of not informing the higher officials about the cricket match or the incident. **P4**

DOPING SHAME

As many as 186 adevrse analytical findings were recorded between April 2023-Jan 2024; Gujarat, UP top Khelo India funding list: Ministry's annual report | **P11**

ALMANAC TODAY

Friday: 02.05.2025 **Year:** Vishwavasu **Ayana:** Uttarayana
Ritu: Vasantha **Masa:** Vaishaka **Paksha:** Sukla **Tithi:** Panchami 2.27 pm
Nakshatra: Ardra 6.09 pm **Moon in** Kataka Rashi **Rahukaala:** 10:30 am to 12:00 pm
Gulikakala: 07:30 am to 09:00 am **Yamaganda:** 01:30 pm to 03:00 pm

WEATHER

MIN 21°C | MAX 34°C

FORECAST Overcast

Sunrise 05.58 am
Sunset 06.34 pm
Moonrise 10.07 am
Moonset 11.32 pm

Four high court judges transferred

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@ Bengaluru

ACCEPTING the recommendation of the Supreme Court collegium, the Centre on Thursday notified the transfer of four judges from the Karnataka High Court to various high courts.

According to separate notifications issued, Justice Hemant Chandangoudar is transferred to Madras High Court, Justice K Natarajan to Kerala High Court, Justice NS Sanjay Gowda to Gujarat High Court and Justice Krishna S Dixit to Orissa High Court.

Meanwhile, Telangana High Court Judge Justice PS Sudha, and Dr Justice K Manmadha Rao, Andhra Pradesh High Court judge, were transferred to Karnataka High Court. All the transferred judges are to assume charge of office in the respective high courts.

"With a view to infuse inclusivity and diversity at the level of High Courts and to strengthen the quality of administration of justice, the Supreme Court Collegium in its meeting held on April 16 and 19, 2025 has recommended the transfer of the judges," the Collegium observed, recommending the transfer of seven judges, including four judges from the Karnataka HC.

It may be noted that the Advocates' Association of Bengaluru (AAB) had opposed the collegium's proposal to transfer the four judges, and submitted a memorandum to the Union government not to consider the proposal, after boycotting proceedings of the high court recently.

Civic workers seek Chief Minister Siddaramaiah's blessings, as Deputy Chief Minister DK Shivakumar looks on, at an event on Palace Grounds on Thursday | NAGARAJA GADEKAL

Jobs of 9k garbage truck drivers, cleaners to be regularised: CM

DCM praises pourakarmikas for their service, especially during the pandemic

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@ Bengaluru

CHIEF Minister Siddaramaiah has assured that the jobs of 9,000 drivers and cleaners working in municipalities across the state will be regularised in the coming days.

Siddaramaiah made this statement on Thursday, during a function organised by the Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP), as part of Labour Day, to mark the issuance of the regularisation certificate to pourakarmikas working in the Palike for over 10 years. Ten pourakarmikas were symbolically handed over appointment orders at the event, which were issued by AICC president Mallikarjun Kharge, CM Siddaramaiah, and Deputy Chief Minister DK Shivakumar.

Addressing thousands of pourakarmikas and their families, the CM said, "When I was the chief minister earlier, I had noticed contractors exploiting civic workers and not paying them fair wages. Therefore, to help the workers, a system has been devised to mandate the minimum wage as per the Minimum Wage Act. Earlier, the salary that was being received was Rs 7,000, which was increased to Rs 17,000, and a system was made to credit it directly into the bank account. In this way, civic workers were freed from the clutches of the middlemen."

He further added that when he was in the Opposition, he had exerted pressure on the ruling BJP in the state to regularise the services of pourakarmikas and promised that he would do it when the Congress came to power. "We have fulfilled that promise today. With this, the salary of Rs 39,000 due to pourakarmikas will be paid directly into their accounts," the CM said, adding that the public should also voluntarily pay attention to the cleanliness of their environment.

Praising pourakarmikas for their service, Shivakumar said many programmes have been designed to strengthen the future of their children, for which Rs 700 crore has been allocated. The government made a plan so that when they retire, it will deposit Rs 10 lakh, and the pourakarmikas will get a pension of Rs 6,000. "Priority has been given to your health, your children's education, and skill development. In 2017, the then Siddaramaiah government had directly appointed 10,000 civic workers, and 7.70 lakh houses were built for you across the state. Meanwhile, health insurance has been announced in the budget for 2024-25," he told the gathering, while also recalling the services of pourakarmikas during the Covid-19 pandemic.

FOR A BETTER LIFE

12,692 pourakarmikas in BBMP will get appointment letters now

₹25 cr for housing under the Onti Mane scheme was announced in the budget

₹7 cr for higher education expenses and laptops for their children

₹3 cr allocated for pourakarmikas to get electric two-wheelers

₹1 cr for skill development of pourakarmikas' children

17.8 mm rain: Uprooted tree kills auto driver

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@ Bengaluru

THE 17.8 mm rainfall that lashed Bengaluru City on Thursday, not only caused roads to get flooded, resulting in slowing down of traffic, but also led to trees being uprooted, one of which fell on an auto-rickshaw, crushing its driver to death.

Mahesh (45), an auto driver residing in Ittamadu, Bengaluru South, lost his life when a huge tree uprooted and fell on his vehicle, around 7.30 pm, in CK Achakattu police limits, locals said.

"He had received a call and had plugged on his earphone, when the tree fell. Immediately, a few of us rushed in and tried to pull him out of the mangled auto. He opened his eyes momentarily, before shutting them again. Officials of the BBMP and BESCOM managed to have the tree lifted from the auto, and shift Mahesh to hospital in an ambulance," said a resident. However, Mahesh did not make it.

The deputy conservator of forests, BBMP, said that till 9 pm, 10 tree-fall complaints were received, with most of them being attended to. Regarding the auto driver's death, he said the victim was originally from Mysuru, and details of his family are being sourced. As per norms, ex-gratia will be given to his kin.

The Varunamithra application from the Karnataka State Natural Disaster Monitoring Centre, showed that areas like Hampi Nagar, RR Nagar, Nayandahalli, Vidya Peeta, Kengeri, Herohalli, Horamavu, Pulakeshinagar, and Hemmigepura all recorded over 25 mm rainfall, while in places like Cunningham Road, Fayazabad in Yelachanahalli, Jnanabharathi, Gunjur, and others, traffic proceeded at a snail's pace.

Gulab Pasha, an activist from Yelachanahalli, said, "Our request to BBMP to desilt drains here always falls on deaf ears. Last year also, a similar situation prevailed. Incidently, within 48 hours of new Chief Commissioner Maheshwar Rao taking charge, this has happened, and we hope he takes note of it and tells his officers to fix the said issues."

The mangled remains of the auto rickshaw, on which a tree fell amid heavy rain, killing its driver in Bengaluru on Thursday evening | EXPRESS

> **He had received a call and had plugged on his earphone, when the tree fell. Immediately, a few of us rushed in and tried to pull him out of the mangled auto**
>
> Local eyewitness

SSLC results to be declared today

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@ Bengaluru

THE Karnataka School Examination and Assessment Board (KSEAB) will declare the SSLC (Class 10) exam results on Friday -- May 2, at 11.30 am. This year, over 8.96 lakh students had appeared, including over 4.61 lakh boys and 4.34 lakh girls. The exams were held from March 21 to April 4.

School Education and Literacy Minister Madhu Bangarappa will officially announce the SSLC-1 results at 11.30 am. The formal declaration will take place at the KSEAB office in Bengaluru, in the presence of senior officials.

Students can check their results by entering their roll number and date of birth on the official website. This year, exams were held at 2,818 centres across the state, with around 65,000 evaluators deployed at 240 evaluation centres to ensure smooth and timely correction of answer scripts.

Last year, around 8.9 lakh students had registered for the SSLC exams and the overall pass percentage stood at 73.40%, marking a drop from 83.89% in 2023, and 85.13% in 2022.

This year, students must score at least 35% to pass the SSLC examination, as the KSEAB has reverted to the pre-Covid evaluation system. Last year, the board had lowered the passing mark to 25% and added grace marks to help more students get promoted after a significant number failed the SSLC exams. However, prior to the exams, Bangarappa announced that such relaxations will no longer be in place.

TRAFFIC ADVISORY

In a bid to decongest Devarabeesanahalli Junction in HAL Airport Traffic Police Station limits, the road from the junction towards Sakra Hospital will be converted into a one-way road on trial basis for a week, starting Friday till May 8.

RESTRICTED ROADS

From Sakra Hospital Road to Devarabeesanahalli Junction. (From West to East)

ALTERNATIVE ROUTES

Vehicles moving from Sakra Hospital Road to Devarabeesanahalli Junction can: Take Sakra Hospital Main Road to Bellandur Kodi, continue on Bellandur Main Road, reach Outer Ring Road and proceed to Devarabeesanahalli Junction

Vehicles moving from Sakra Hospital Road to Kadubeesanahalli Junction can: Take Sakra Hospital Road to Outer Ring Road, turn left near Ganesh Temple Cross, reach Kadubeesanahalli Junction, and take a U-turn, enter the service road on Outer Ring Road, access Cessna Business Park, and proceed to Devarabeesanahalli Junction

AGAINST ALL ODDS

Beating bone cancer, teen scores 92% in ICSE exam

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@ Bengaluru

AFTER battling bone cancer for over a year, **Chirantan Honnapura** from Bengaluru emerged stronger — scoring an impressive 92% in his Class-10 ICSE board exam.

A student of Aryan Presidency School in Nagarbhavi, Chirantan was diagnosed with High Grade Osteosarcoma — a rare and aggressive form of bone cancer that typically affects teenagers — while he was in Class 9. The diagnosis forced him to miss the rest of the academic year, as he underwent surgery to remove the cancerous bone in his right forearm, followed by multiple rounds of chemotherapy.

Despite being out of school and hospitalised for long periods, Chirantan did not let his illness derail his academic journey. With the help of a substitute writer, he appeared for his Class 9 exams and scored 82%. Chirantan could not attend special classes for Class 10 for nearly three months due to treatment. Yet, without any private tuitions, he relied solely on school lessons, teacher guidance, and online resources, attending live sessions on social media platforms.

After clearing his exam, Chirantan said, "I want to study law and prepare for the UPSC exam. My dream is to become an IPS officer. That's why I have decided to take up commerce in PUC."

'Govt, builders should invest in deeper recharge pits'

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

WHILE this is a serious issue, officials in the Urban Development Department admit that there are no records of the number of high-rise structures in Bengaluru city and on its outskirts. There is no limit on the height of buildings, unless they come under aviation or defence jurisdictions. Senior officials said there is no method to ascertain how many structures a city can hold.

BN Girish, additional director, Town Planning, Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara palike (BBMP), said the palike does not have the exact collated number of high-rise buildings in its limits. The palike's role ends with giving occupancy certificates and other clearances.

Munish Moudgil, special commissioner, Revenue and IT, BBMP, said there are around seven lakh multi-storey units in Bengaluru. But the number of tall buildings in the city is not known. Meanwhile, Rakesh Singh, chairperson, Karnataka Real Estate Regulatory Authority (K-RERA), said since 2017, over 4,000 approvals have been issued for high-rise structures. Work on 75% of the structures has been completed. About 95% of these structures are residential buildings.

R Babu, retired official of the Mines and Geology Department, who is now a consultant with Central Ground Water Board, said the government and builders should now invest in creating deeper recharge pits and compulsorily implement rainwater harvesting rules. The focus should now be on water discharge and storage as many areas of the city have been declared as 'zero-water areas'.

EXPRESS READ

Air Marshal Tejinder Singh takes over as AOC-in-C, Training Command

BENGALURU: Air Marshal **Tejinder Singh** took over as Air Officer Commanding-in-Chief (AOC-in-C), Training Command, on Thursday. An alumnus of the National Defence Academy, Air Marshal Singh was commissioned in the fighter stream of the IAF on June 13, 1987. He is a Category 'A' Qualified Flying Instructor, with over 4,500 hours of flying, and an alumnus of Defence Service Staff College and National Defence College. He has commanded a fighter squadron, a radar station, a premier fighter base, and was Air Officer Commanding, Jammu and Kashmir, a statement said. Prior to his present appointment, he was the Deputy Chief of the Air Staff at Air HQ (VB), the statement added, further informing that in recognition of his meritorious service, he was awarded the Vayu Sena Medal in 2007, and Ati Vishisht Seva Medal in 2022.

Daily Starscope

PETER VIDAL

02nd May: Pisces is the Sign of the Fish, but these wonderful creatures also turn up elsewhere in astrology. In times past, many people used to believe that it was important to eat fish on Friday. The tradition is a very ancient one which commemorates the story that the goddess Venus, whose special day is Friday, was rescued from a terrible monster when she was turned into a fish and escaped!

ARIES (Mar 21 - Apr. 20)
A bright and colourful moon is bound to lift your spirits, even if only temporarily. In fact, it's tomorrow's planetary picture which is going to set you on a permanent course for emotional fulfilment, so hang on in there, and do your level best to avert potential bad feeling.

TAURUS (Apr. 21 - May 21)
If ever you imagined that domestic hassles or awkward family relationships could be put off until later, think again. No matter what other people do or say, you must do what you know in your heart to be right and proper. You can't put off the inevitable just by ignoring it.

GEMINI (May 22 - June 21)
It's a relatively lively day, celestially speaking. Probably the best thing you can do for yourself is to revise a few of your attitudes and opinions, and drop those excuses you've been using to justify inaction. It doesn't matter what you do, just as long as you do something!

CANCER (June 22 - July 23)
When all is said and done, money still seems to be the most important factor in your life. It may be best to consider the matter from the psychological perspective, for the extent to which you value yourself and your loved ones is more important than how much cash you have in your pocket.

LEO (July 24 - Aug. 23)
This really can be a special time of year, as one by one the planets line up in your honour. The trouble is that life's still not easy, but don't mistake obstacles or over-commitment for misfortune. Quite the opposite: a chance problem may help you to refine your talents and skills.

VIRGO (Aug. 24 - Sept. 23)
Mercury, your planetary ruler, has switched roles, somewhat prematurely in my opinion. Don't be disappointed if it begins to seem that a recent promise or commitment will not be fulfilled. Strange as it appears, any delay will be well worth the wait.

LIBRA (Sept. 24 - Oct. 23)
The social dimension is becoming stronger, which means that in work or in any equivalent major ambition, other people are now becoming increasingly important. Never imagine that you'll get your way without a large measure of support. If you try to go it alone, you might not get there!

SCORPIO (Oct. 24 - Nov. 22)
You're undecided about what you should do and uncertain about what's expected of you. Even if you decide to back-track on one particular social engagement, it may be too late to call it off. In any event, all professional Scorpios are about to hit a new high at work. Congratulations!

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 23 - Dec. 22)
The ever-present influence of Jupiter, planet of growth, enhancing the principled and spiritual dimensions of your character, is about to receive another shot in the arm from the Moon. On a purely mundane level, it's vital that you know your rights.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 23 - Jan. 20)
Your emotional situation is about to change, hopefully for the better, although it might not seem that way at first. Long-distance love is still the theme, so it's very much a question of absence making the heart grow fonder over the coming few weeks.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 21 - Feb. 19)
Saturn, that serious and sober planet, is still an extraordinarily powerful factor. However, the feelings of stability which it has been nurturing are being increasingly overwhelmed by your deepening desire for a personal revolution and for more respect and recognition.

PISCES (Feb. 20 - Mar 20)
Mercury and Venus deserve no little thanks for the good they are doing you emotionally. Although today's celestial alignments favour hard work, do yourself a favour and cram your social diary as full as possible. You're prepared to play hard and work hard.

Solutions to Yesterday's puzzle

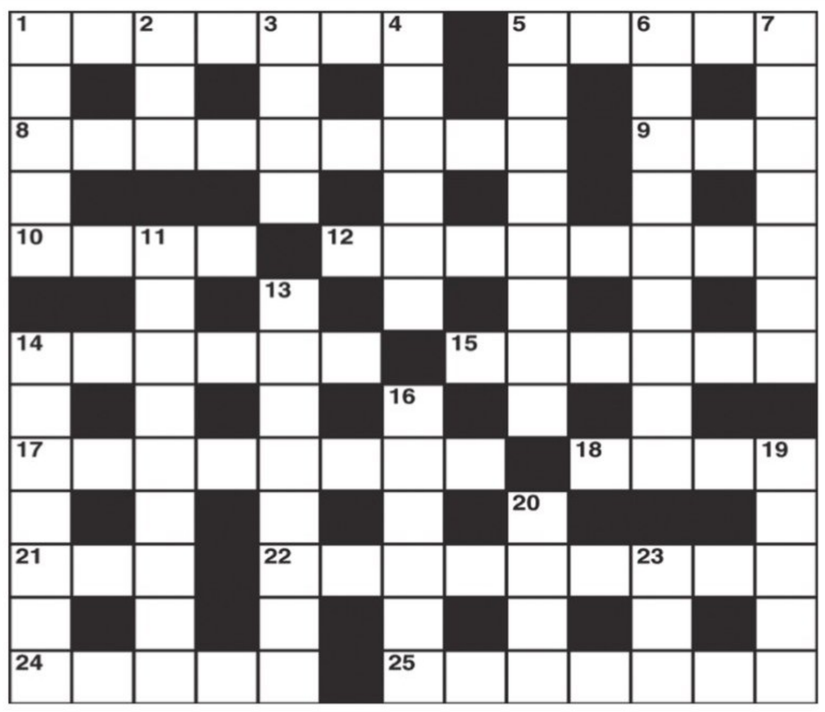
	4					9		2
6			4	7		5	8	
			5	6	9			
			3	8			7	
2		1	6		4	8		3
	6			2	7			
			2	4	3			
	3	6		9	5			8
4		7					5	

4	6	1	3	8	7	5	2	9
8	3	9	2	5	4	6	1	7
5	7	2	9	6	1	3	8	4
7	2	3	1	4	5	8	9	6
1	5	6	8	9	3	7	4	2
9	4	8	7	2	6	1	5	3
2	8	7	6	1	9	4	3	5
6	1	4	5	3	2	9	7	8
3	9	5	4	7	8	2	6	1

SU DO KU EASY

TEST YOUR NUMBER CRUNCHING SKILL WITH OUR UNIQUE PUZZLE

Fill in the grid with digits in such a manner that every row, every column and every 3X3 box accommodates the digits 1 to 9, without repeating any.



CROSS WORD

ACROSS

1 Kitty gives John a drug (7)
5 Pushing forwards (5)
8 Made to look great (9)
9 Old boys (3)
10 Dismiss through drink (4)
12 Erudition - obtained by this? (8)
14 Arnold and Roland upset him (6)
15 Andrew goes out for a ramble (6)
17 Great admirer it appears of deferred action (8)
18 Not falsely loyal (4)
21 Welcome return for a girl (3)
22 Inadequate as air gunner; fell short as pilot (9)
24 The name is right (5)
25 Girl with wry smile has sex appeal (7)

DOWN

1 They are posted either side of the door (5)
2 It is engaged in making a machine work (3)
3 I take friend out in vessel (4)
4 Loiter perhaps - but he's unlikely to (6)
5 Turning off the main way (4,4)
6 A souvenir about what has been left behind (9)
7 Controlling factor (7)
11 In agreement? Not I for one (9)
13 Meadows seen in unspoilt delight (8)
14 Intend to let out apparel (7)
16 When models losing their shape are employed? (6)
19 Tear around carrying Times supplement (5)
20 A test for which there is something to be said (4)
23 Is not without laughs (3)

YESTERDAY'S SOLUTIONS

Across: 1 Pendulum, 5 Pick, 9 Error, 10 Abandon, 11 Single person, 13 Lights, 14 Jousts, 17 Reading glass, 20 Chianti, 21 Grand, 22 Lent, 23 Cretonne.

Down: 1 Peep, 2 Nursing, 3 Upright piano, 4 Usages, 6 Indus, 7 Kindness, 8 Take to flight, 12 Clerical, 15 Sustain, 16 Uglier, 18 Alien, 19 Idle.

JUMBLE

BY DAVID L. HOYT AND JEFF KNUREK

UNSCRAMBLE THESE JUMBLES, ONE LETTER TO EACH SQUARE, TO FORM FOUR ORDINARY WORDS.

COGKE

RNLAS

TIRBET

WGHORT

Ooh! There we go! This song needs a G-Am-C chord progression. Then I can add Em in the chorus.
FOR THE SONGWRITING GUITARIST, IT WAS ALL ABOUT FINDING THE RIGHT NOTES TO ---
Get the free JUST JUMBLE app • Follow us on Twitter @PlayJumble

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Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

(Answers tomorrow)

Yesterday's Jumbles: GRUFF FLINT BABOON HIATUS
Answer: The dilapidated roadside billboard was taken down, and now there was — NO SIGN OF IT

Kalaburagi Second Additional District and Special Sessions Court awarded life imprisonment to 5 accused in a murder that took place on November 15, 2022, at Arnakal village. Special Public Prosecutor Hampamma Kalmath said the accused including Bhimsingh, Neelesh, Vahab, Gaddappa and another accused had a quarrel with the victim Anand Chauhan regarding a plot. Chouhan was stabbed in the stomach by Bhimsingh

SG PALYA GROPING CASE

FIR against man for posting video on social media

Shared without my consent, says woman

PRAVEEN KUMAR @Bengaluru

THE 19-year-old survivor of the Suddaguntepalya groping case on April 3, filed a complaint against Lokesh Gowda, 55, a resident of 1st Cross, Bharathi Layout in Suddaguntepalya, for posting a video of the crime on social media and making it public. Suddaguntepalya police registered a case under Section 66e of the Information Technology Act, which pertains to intentional or knowing capture, publication, or transmission of images of a person's private area without consent, in violation of their privacy.

The case against Lokesh was registered on Tuesday. The woman, who resides in a PG accommodation on Tavarekere Main Road, alleged in her complaint that Gowda had posted the video on his Facebook account without her consent.

"The case was registered on Tuesday. Lokesh is yet to be arrested, and the section under which the case is registered is bailable," said a police officer.

It may be recalled that Home Minister Dr G Parameshwara faced a massive backlash for his remark that "such incidents tend to happen here and there in a big city like Bengaluru" in connection with the groping case.

Ten days after the incident, police arrested 26-year-old Santhosh Daniel from Kozhikode district, Kerala. He was tracked after reviewing footage from over 700 CCTVs, tracing his movements across Karnataka and neighbouring Tamil Nadu and Kerala.

Santhosh, a resident of Gulbarga Colony in Tilak Nagar, initially took shelter in Hosur before travelling to Kozhikode via Salem. He worked as a test driver at an imported car showroom in Whitefield. A native of Thally in Hosur, he lived with his mother and brother, an auto driver.

The crime took place at 1.52am on April 3 on 1st Cross, Bharathi Layout, Suddaguntepalya. Based on the video, police had filed a complaint on April 6 by 55-year-old Gowda, who resides on the same street. A case was registered against Santhosh under Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS) sections for sexual harassment (BNS 75), stalking (BNS 78), and using criminal force on a woman with intent to outrage her modesty (BNS 74).

UNITED WE STAND

Members of the Karnataka Workers' Union take out May Day rally in Bengaluru on Thursday | NAGARAJA GADEKAL

Driver stops bus to offer namaz, suspended

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @Bengaluru

THE North Western Karnataka Road Transport Corporation (NWKRTC) on Thursday suspended a bus driver for stopping the vehicle and offering prayers with passengers onboard. The incident happened on April 29 when the bus was plying from Vishalgad to Hanagal.

A R Mulla attached to the bus corporation's Hanagal unit has been placed under suspension pending inquiry.

Mulla had stopped the bus near Gabbur Cross on the outskirts of Hubballi and had offered namaz on the seat behind the driver's seat. Several passengers were seated in the bus and one of the passengers had recorded him offering prayers and had posted it on social media.

Taking note of the video, Transport Minister Ramalinga Reddy had ordered an inquiry. Based on a preliminary probe, the NWKRTC issued order suspending the driver for dereliction of duty, stating that he had observed the religious practice when passengers were on board and that his action had brought disrepute to the institution.

Lokayukta court acquits ex-SP over improper probe

YATHIRAJU @ Bengaluru

IT appears that a chargesheet has been filed only for namesake, without proper investigation to unearth the truth, the Special Court for Lokayukta cases said while acquitting former Superintendent of Police KR Surendra Rao in a corruption case. Lokayukta police booked Rao in 2008, when he was Deputy SP at the office of the DG&IGP, for allegedly possessing Rs 32.65 lakh (68.19%) disproportionate assets during the check period from 1975 to 2008, as per the chargesheet filed in 2013. However, Lokayukta police failed to prove the allegations that he possessed assets disproportionate to his known sources of income.

"On appreciation of evidence and recalculation of assets, expenditure and income, this court came to the conclusion that the income of the accused is more than the assets and expenditure during the check period and hence, no case of disproportionate assets is made out as alleged by the prosecution," said Prakash Nayak, Judge, Special Court for Lokayukta cases.

The court noted that, as pointed out by counsel for the accused, investigation in this case is not properly conducted. The evidence and materials on record reveal that investigation officers (IOs) have not interrogated the persons from whom the accused himself declared to have obtained financial assistance. The accused submitted his schedule of assets more than a year after police conducted a raid. However, it is the bounden duty of the IOs to verify and cross-check the explanation given by the accused in his schedule. In this case, no such exercise was conducted by the IOs for reasons best known to them. The court opined that materials on record also make it clear that the IOs have not conducted investigation as required. Possession of assets disproportionate to income has to be proved and such possession of pecuniary resources or property disproportionate to his known source of income.

Further, such a public servant would be held guilty of such an offence of criminal misconduct, if he cannot satisfactorily account for such disproportionate pecuniary resources or property. Every accused is presumed to be innocent unless guilt is proven.

EXPRESS READ

Woman held for online post claiming to be ex-MP Suresh's wife

Bengaluru: A government school teacher was arrested for allegedly claiming to be the wife of former Bengaluru Rural MP DK Suresh, and posting fake videos on social media. The woman was arrested by Ramanagara CEN police, based on a complaint by the politician's advocate, Pradeep. On April 8, Pavithra posted a video on her Facebook account under the name Pavithra DK Suresh Doddalahalli, claiming to be his spouse. Pavithra, who hails from Doddalahalli in Kanakapura taluk, was staying in Mysuru. She even posted an edited picture of herself standing with Suresh. "I am happy to say that Suresh, my husband, has done good work during his MP tenure. I am first a big fan of Suresh, then his wife," she said in the video.

2 dead, four injured in fire triggered by gas leak

Bengaluru: Two people died and four others sustained serious injuries in a suspected fire accident sparked by a gas leakage on the outskirts of the city that happened on April 28, police said on Thursday. The incident occurred in the Madanayakanahalli police station limits. The deceased are Nagaraj,50, and his neighbour Srinivas, 50, who came to his rescue. Nagaraj, who was a native of Ballari, lived with his wife Lakshmi Devi, 38, and children Basana, 19, and Abhishek. Srinivas lived next door with another man, Shivashankar. "On Monday morning, Nagaraj lit an oil lamp during his puja. Meanwhile, Abhishek had just changed the cylinders, and nobody noticed the gas leakage. Nagaraj, his wife and two children sustained severe burn injuries," said an officer.

PUBLIC NOTICE

Public are hereby informed that my client, **Mr. Vinod. V.,** aged about 36 years, son of Mr. Velu. V., residing at No. 38/2, 21st Cross, Old Bagalur Layout, Sagayapuram, Bangalore : 560 084, Aadhaar Card No. 7821 3618 2055, has lost the original Deed of Absolute Sale dated 28.10.2017 and the same came to be registered as document No. 3546/2017-18 of Book-I, stored in CD No. GAND 299, in the office of the Sub Registrar Gandhinagar, Bangalore, executed by Mr. M.G. Sundaramurthy, son of late M.S. Ganapathy Chettair, duly represented by his General Power of Attorney Holder M/s. Sri. Sapthagiri Builders, in his favour, pertaining to the immovable Property being a Two Bedroom residential apartment/ flat bearing unit No. TF-1 on the Third Floor, having a super built up area of 1080 Square Feet together with 270 Square Feet of Undivided Share, right, title and interest in the land comprised in the residential building known as SAPTHAGIRI RESIDENCY, bearing New Municipal No. 2/2 (old No. 5), PID No. 90-32-2/2 (old PID No. 90-32-5), situated at **Lingarajapuram, Bangalore.**

My client has also lodge a complaint regarding the loss of the aforesaid original document, before concerned jurisdictional police station vide acknowledgement bearing **Lost Article Report No. 1585973/2025, dated 29.04.2025.**

Any person finding the said original may kindly return the same to the undersigned.

T.K. GOWHAR BASSHA, Advocate
S.A. KHAYUM ASSOCIATES, No.9, Hayes Road Cross,
Richmond Town, Bangalore-560025. M: 9845215566
Bangalore **Dated : 02.05.2025**

CITY UNION BANK LIMITED
Credit Recovery and Management Department
Administrative Office: No.24-B, Gandhi Nagar, Kumbakonam - 612001. **E-Mail id:** crmd@cityunionbank.in, **Phone:** 0435-2432322, **Fax:** 0435-2431746

TENDER-CUM-AUCTION SALE NOTICE UNDER SARFAESI ACT 2002

The following property/ies mortgaged to **City Union Bank Limited** will be sold in Tender-cum-Public Auction by the Authorised Officer of the Bank, under Rule 8 (6) & 9 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002, under the SARFAESI Act, 2002, for recovery of a sum of **Rs.13,50,960/- (Rupees Thirteen Lakh Fifty Thousand Nine Hundred and Sixty only)** as on **27-04-2025** together with further interest to be charged from **28-04-2025** onwards and other expenses, any other dues to the Bank by the borrowers / guarantors **No.1) Mr. Javeed Pasha, S/o.Mohammed Peer, No.37 & 39, 14th Ward, 2nd Cross, Behind, Masjid, Nalbandwadi, Mohalla, Ramanagara - 571511. No.2) Mrs.Haseen Taj, W/o.Javeed Pasha, No.37 & 39, 14th Ward, 2nd Cross, Behind Masjid, Nalbandwadi, Mohalla, Ramanagara - 571511. No.3) Mr.Suhail Pasha, S/o. Javeed Pasha, No.37 & 39, 14th Ward, 2nd Cross, Behind Masjid, Nalbandwadi, Mohalla, Ramanagara - 571511.**

Immovable Property Mortgaged to our Bank
(Property Owned by Mr. Javeed Pasha, S/o.Mohammed Peer)

All that Piece and Parcel of the Residential Property Bearing Municipal Khatha No.477/459/379, PID No.14-3-511-19. Measuring : East to West 9.448819 Meters and North to South 13.716027 Meters. Totally Measuring 129.599685 Meters Situated at Ward No.14, 2nd Main Road, Block No.09, Mahaboothagully, Ramanagara. Bounded On : East By : Land of Murkappa, West By : Road, North By : Property of Syed Afzal @ Syed Rehman, South By : Site of Abdul Raheem.

Reserve Price : Rs.66,00,000/-
(Rupees Sixty Six Lakh only)

AUCTION DETAILS

Date of Tender-cum-Auction Sale	Venue
09-06-2025	**City Union Bank Limited, Bengaluru-Ramanagara Branch,** B.M.Road, 316, I Stage, Near Bus Stand, Bengaluru-Mysore Main Road, Ramanagara, Bengaluru Rural - 571511. Telephone No.080-27276688, Cell No.9379511195.

Terms and Conditions of Tender-cum-Auction Sale :

(1) The intending bidders should be present in person for the auction and participate personally and give a declaration in writing to the effect that he/she is bidding for himself/herself. **(2)** The intending bidders may obtain the Tender Forms from **The Manager, City Union Bank Limited, Bengaluru-Ramanagara Branch, B.M.Road, 316, I Stage, Near Bus Stand, Bengaluru - Mysore Main Road, Ramanagara, Bengaluru Rural - 571511. (3)** The intending bidders should submit their bids only in the Tender Form prescribed in sealed envelopes addressed to **The Authorised Officer, City Union Bank Ltd.,** together with a Pay Order / Demand Draft for an EMD of **10%** of the Reserve Price, drawn in favour of **"City Union Bank Ltd.", on or before 12.00 Noon** on the date of Tender-cum-Auction Sale hereby notified. **(4)** For inspection of the property and other particulars, the intending purchaser may contact **Telephone No.080-27276688, Cell No.9379511195. (5)** The property/ ies are sold on "As-is-where-is", "As-is-what-is" and "whatever-there is" basis. **(6)** The sealed tenders will be opened in the presence of the intending bidders at **01.00 p.m.** on the date of Tender-cum-Auction Sale hereby notified. Though in general the sale will be by way of closed tenders, the Authorised Officer may, at his sole discretion, conduct an Open Auction among the interested bidders who desire to quote a bid higher than the one received in the closed tender process, and in such an event, the sale shall be conferred on the person making highest bid. The sale, however, is subject to confirmation of City Union Bank Limited. **(7)** The successful bidder shall have to pay **25% (inclusive of EMD paid)** of the Sale amount **immediately** on completion of sale and the balance amount of **75%** within **15 days** from the date of confirmation of sale, failing which the initial deposit of **25%** shall be forfeited. **(8)** The Sale Certificate will be issued by the Authorised Officer in favour of the successful purchaser only after receipt of the entire sale consideration within the time limit stipulated herein. **(9)** The successful purchaser shall bear the charges/fees payable for conveyance, such as stamp duty, registration fee etc., as applicable under law. **(10)** The successful bidder should pay the statutory dues (lawful house tax, electricity charges and other dues), TDS, GST if any, due to Government, Government Undertaking and local bodies. **(11)** The Authorised Officer shall have all the powers to accept or reject the bids or postpone or cancel the sale without assigning any reason whatsoever.

Place : Kumbakonam, Date : 30-04-2025 **Authorised Officer**

Regd. Office: 149, T.S.R. (Big) Street, Kumbakonam, Thanjavur District, Tamil Nadu - 612001, **CIN -** L65110TN1904PLC001287, **Telephone No.**0435-2402322, **Fax:** 0435-2431746, **Website:** www.cityunionbank.com

ANDHRA PRADESH AIRPORTS DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION LIMITED
(Under the control of infrastructure & Investment Dept.)
Mangalagiri, Amaravati

DEVELOPMENT OPERATION & MANAGEMENT OF FLYING TRAINING ORGANIZATION AT KURNOOL AIRPORT IN ANDHRA PRADESH

Notice No.5/APADCL/FTO at Kurnool Airport/2024-25, Dt.12.03.2025

Andhra Pradesh Airports Development Corporation Limited (APADCL) invites Proposals from reputed Global firms for the captioned assignment. Interested firms may download the Request for Proposal (RFP) document from the website of APADCL @ **https://www.apadcl.com/** on 02.05.2025 at 11.00 AM. The last date for submission of the proposals is on or before 15:00 hours IST on 16.05.2025 (in **ap e-procurement** portal only)

Sd/- Managing Director, APADCL

For any clarifications, please send e-mail to:
md-apadcl@ap.gov.in, cgmtechapadcl@gmail.com

DIPR No.4083PP/CL/ADVT/1/1/2021-22 Dt.01/05/2025

IN THE COURT OF THE HON'BLE IX ADDITIONAL CITY CIVIL JUDGE, AT BENGALURU
CCH: 05
P & S.C No. 217/2025

BETWEEN:

1. **Shri. ACHYUT S. ROKKAM,**
Son of Shri. R.S. Shankarand, Grandchild of Late Shri. R. Sriram
Aged about 29 years, Male, A Hindu
Residing at: 650, 4th Cross, 3rd Block,
Koramangala, Bengaluru - 560 034 PETITIONER No. 1
2. **Shri. ATUL S. ROKKAM,**
Son of Shri. R.S. Shankar, Grandchild of Late Shri. R. Sriram
Aged about 25 years, Male, A Hindu
Residing at: 650, 4th Cross, 3rd Block, Koramangala,
Bengaluru - 560 034 PETITIONER No. 2
3. **Shri. ABHIRAM PASUMARTHY**
Son of Shri. Balaji Pasumarthy and Smt. Arathi P. Balaji,
Grandchild of Late Shri. R. Sriram
Aged about 28 years, Male, A Hindu
Residing at Flat no 1522, Embassy habitat, 59, Palace Road,
Next to Mount Carmel college, Bangalore - 560052. PETITIONER No. 3
4. **Smt. / Kmr. ADITI PASUMARTHY**
Daughter of Shri. Balaji Pasumarthy and Smt. Arathi P. Balaji,
Grandchild of Late Shri. R. Sriram
Aged about 26 years, Female, A Hindu
Residing at Flat no 1522, Embassy habitat, 59, Palace Road,
Next to Mount Carmel college, Bangalore - 560052. PETITIONER No. 4

AND

NIL RESPONDENT

PUBLIC NOTICE

Whereas the Petitioners has filed the above petition under Section 276 of the Indian Succession Act for the grant of succession Certificate in favour of all the four (4) Petitioners declaring that they are entitled to succeed title and to receive the Schedule Property as illustrated under and referenced above, jointly and equally together, as shown and illustrated in clause 5 (a) of the Deceased Sri. R. Sriram's son of Shri. Late Krishna Shetty Last Executed Will date 12th March 2018 (12.03.2018).

SCHEDULE PROPERTY

All that piece and parcel of the property bearing 'MAITRI', situated at No. 650, 4th Cross, off 17th Main, 3rd Block, Koramangala, Bengaluru - 560034, Karnataka.

Sl. No.	Measurements	Units
1.	East to West	50ft
2.	North to South	75ft
	Total	**3750 square feet**
Sl. No.	**Boundaries**	**Description**
1.	East by	Site No. 649, 4th Cross, 3rd Block, Koramangala
2.	West by	Site No. 651, 4th Cross, 3rd Block, Koramangala
3.	North by	Site No. 653, 5th Cross, 3rd Block, Koramangala
4.	South by	4th Cross, 3rd Block, Koramangala

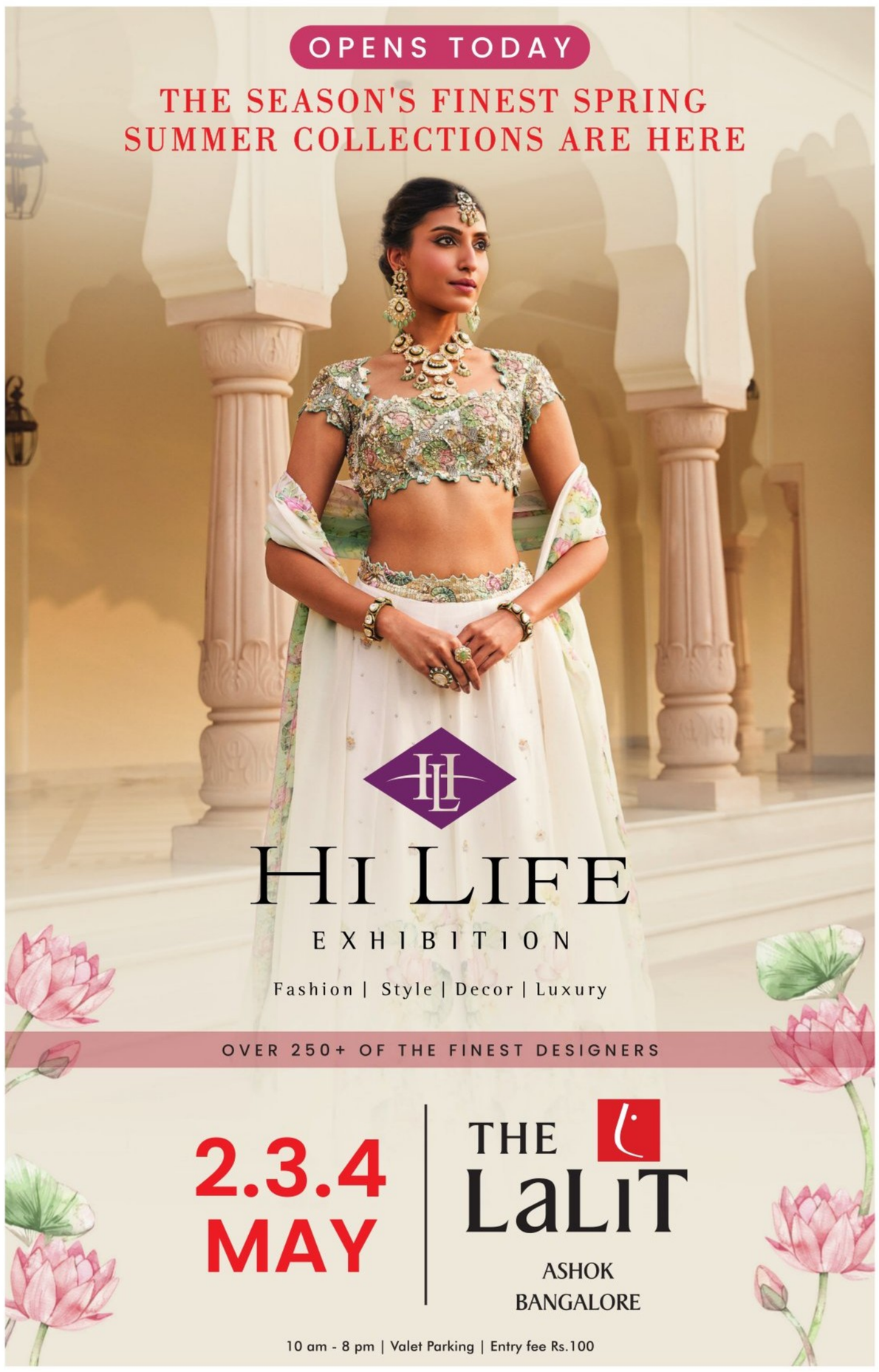
The above property consists of a residential building with ground and first floor. Notice is hereby given to the general public that whoever has any objections to the grant of the Probate and Succession Certificate may submit the same before the Hon'ble IX Additional City Civil Judge, at Bengaluru (CCH - 05), on 10.07.2025 at 11:00 a.m., being the next date of hearing of the Petition to show-cause against the above petition, take notice that, in default of your appearance on the date before mentioned, the petition will be heard and determined in your absence.

Given under my hand and the seal of the Court on this the 29th day of April 2025.

Advocates for the Petitioners: -
PROLAW, Advocates, at No.18, Chitrakoot, 1st Cross, Kumaracot Layout, High Grounds, Bengaluru - 560001

By the order of the Court
Senior Sheristed
City Civil Court, Bengaluru

Your Guide to Spicy Living INDULGE Every Friday with THE NEW INDIAN EXPRESS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THE SEASON'S FINEST SPRING SUMMER COLLECTIONS ARE HERE
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THE LaLiT
ASHOK BANGALORE
10 am - 8 pm | Valet Parking | Entry fee Rs.100

Labour Minister Santosh Lad expressed concern over illegal immigrants from Bangladesh living in various parts of the state. Speaking to reporters after attending a private function in Kushalnagar, Kodagu, Lad said that the Union Government has failed to secure the country's borders

START CENSUS WITHIN 3 MONTHS: KHARGE TO CENTRE

'Any delay means Union govt not serious about conducting enumeration work'

PRAMODKUMAR VAIDYA @ Hubballi

TAKING full credit for the Union Government's decision to conduct a caste census alongside the national census, All-India Congress Committee (AICC) president Mallikarjun Kharge has demanded that the Centre begin the census within three months. Failure to do so, he warned, would expose the Centre's lack of seriousness and prove that the announcement was merely for show.

Addressing the 'Samvidhan Ulisi, Belayerike Ilisi' (Protect Constitution, curb price rise) rally organised by the state Congress in Hubballi on Thursday, Kharge asserted that the party leaders, including himself and LoP in Lok Sabha Rahul Gandhi, had long been advocating for a caste census. The Congress was earlier accused by the BJP of trying to divide society, but now the saffron party has bowed to the public pressure generated by the Congress and other opposition parties, he said.

Clarifying the Congress' position on caste and social justice, Kharge outlined a three-point agenda — conducting a caste census; implementing Article 15(5) of the Constitution in private educational institutions through appropriate legislation; and removing the 50% cap on reservations imposed by the Supreme Court via a Constitutional amendment to allow reservations in proportion to population size. Citing Tamil Nadu as a model, the AICC president noted that the state provides 69% reservation and that state governments are willing to do more but are restricted by the Union Government. While the Modi government has now agreed to a caste census, Kharge vowed that the Congress will continue its fight to achieve the remaining two goals.

Kharage accused the BJP-led NDA government of systematically weakening sections of the Constitution one by one. "If anybody speaks against it, cases are being filed against them and they being haunted using the Central agencies such as CBI, ED, and Income Tax Department," he added.

> **If anybody speaks against govt, cases are being filed against them and they being haunted using the Central agencies such as CBI, ED, and Income Tax Department**
>
> AICC president Mallikarjun Kharge

"One should realise that freedom has existed and rights are being enjoyed due to the Constitution. If you don't raise your voice, you yourselves are giving up your freedom and rights. If we protect the Constitution, it will protect us," he said, adding that he, Rahul Gandhi, and the entire Congress have been agitating to protect the Constitution and safeguard the unity of the country.

Reiterating that the Congress has stood behind the Modi government in its retaliation against those responsible for the recent Pahalgam terror attack, the AICC president did not absolve the government on security or intelligence failure. "We wanted to know from Prime Minister Narendra Modi how the terror incident happened in the all-party meeting, but he was busy in the election campaign in poll-bound Bihar," Kharge ridiculed.

Declaring that he is not afraid of PM Modi or Home Minister Amit Shah, Kharge urged Congress workers to stand strong. He warned BJP leaders against trying to intimidate Congress leaders and workers.

Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge, Chief Minister Siddaramaiah, Deputy CM DK Shivakumar, party general secretary Randeep Singh Surjewala and others at 'Samvidhan Ulisi, Belayerike Ilisi' rally in Hubballi on Thursday | D HEMANTH

'RSS, Jan Sangh always opposed quota'

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @ Bengaluru

WHILE hitting out at the BJP for its remarks that the country's first Prime Minister Jawaharlal Nehru was against caste-based reservation, All-India Congress Committee (AICC) president Mallikarjun Kharge said that the RSS and Jan Sangh have opposed reservation and social justice since their inception. "If we are against caste census, why did we write to the Centre (seeking a caste census) two years ago? BJP is creating confusion among people by pretending that only they care about people's welfare. But it is bogus. They (BJP) are doing it for politics," he said.

Kharge said that the Centre had not agreed to a caste census when he had written to PM Narendra Modi on April 16, 2023, asking for a caste census along with the national census. "Now the Union Government has taken the decision to carry out a caste census. This is a good idea which we fully support," Kharge said.

"Ambedkar brought the Hindu Code Bill, but everyone made a fuss about it then... Nehru had supported it. We work with ideology, but the BJP is basically against the idea of reservation. They (Modi government) should do the census along with the social, economic, and educational status of the communities," Kharge said.

Centre's budget for nationwide caste survey not enough: Kharge

BENGALURU: Questioning the Centre, which recently announced having a nationwide caste survey, along with the next population census, AICC president Mallikarjun Kharge said the Karnataka government has conducted the Socio-Economic and Educational Survey with a budget of Rs 165 crore, while the Union Government has said its nationwide plan entails a cost of Rs 515 crore, which is not enough. "If they had any concerns, they would have announced the survey in the budget. When we suggested it, they ignored it. And now due to pressure, they are doing it and want to take credit," he said. He further stated that the government initiated the survey in September 2010, when he was the Union labour, as well as social welfare minister in Dr Manmohan Singh's cabinet, but the BJP did not release that report. "They (BJP) will now have to act on other demands like removing the 50% cap of reservation and helping SC/ST, Backward Classes and Economically-Weaker Sections. This apart, reservation for SCs and STs in the private sector, and reservation for women in jobs and seats in the Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha, state assemblies, and elected bodies, will have to be looked into," Kharge said. **ENS**

Special court dismisses plaint against Siddu 1.0 for causing loss to BBMP

YATHIRAJU @ Bengaluru

EXPRESS CLUSIVE

A PRIVATE complaint filed by a former corporator alleges that the aggrieved Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP) itself has maintained silence on recovering crores of rupees in advertisement tax from the Department of Information and Public Relations (DIPR), for using its bus shelters to display achievements of the state government.

The ads pertain to Chief Minister Siddaramaiah's 2013-18 tenure. The complaint alleges that Siddaramaiah and then Urban Development Minister KJ George might have bribed or given illegal gratification to accused bureaucrats of the DIPR to maintain silence, and a special court dismissed it.

Judge Santhosh Gajanan Bhat of the Special Court for trial of criminal cases against former and sitting MPs/MLAs in the state, said allegations are levelled on assumptions and presumptions, which cannot be a basis for setting criminal law into motion. Also, the complaint was dismissed by holding there are no grounds to proceed against accused No.1 to 5, he said.

The complaint was filed by NR Ramesh in 2025, with a prayer to register the case against accused Siddaramaiah, George, then DIPR principal secretaries Lakshminarayayan, Manivannan P and then BBMP commissioner Manjunath Prasad, under the Prevention of Corruption Act, and refer the complaint for proper investigation by Lokayukta police.

Alleging that a loss of Rs 68.14 crore was caused to BBMP by displaying ads on 439 bus shelters from 2015 to 2017 without obtaining permission and not paying the fee, Ramesh moved the special court after the Lokayukta closed his complaint on July 29, 2024, with a finding that since it is a government policy matter or administrative action of the democratic government, the act cannot be considered an 'allegation' since there is no misappropriation or exhibition of misconduct. It is also said the aggrieved person is BBMP, which has not filed a complaint against DIPR. While according permission to advertise, BBMP has not given conditional permission to pay tax, the Lokayukta concluded, closing the complaint.

However, Ramesh alleged before the special court that he had little hope on the Karnataka Lokayukta, but surprisingly the complaint was closed with a one-sided report which was made to safeguard the accused persons.

Referring to the Lokayukta's findings, the special court said it would clearly indicate that the interest of justice will not be subserved, by once again referring the case for investigation. Admittedly, BBMP is also under financial assistance and aid of the Karnataka government, which takes care of welfare schemes as well as maintaining BBMP.

CM: Will recommend to Union govt to increase reservation for SCs, STs

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

ON whether the Centre's census will affect the state government's survey, he said it will not as the SES-2015 report has already been presented before the cabinet. The Centre is yet to conduct the census, Chief Minister Siddaramaiah said. In all, 5.90 crore people have been surveyed, covering 93% of the population. It is not possible to cover 100% of the population, Siddaramaiah said, stating that SES was conducted in a scientific manner.

He said that he will recommend to the Centre to increase the quota for the SCs and STs. "If it has to be increased, the Centre should amend the Constitution. The state government can tell the Centre how much it should be increased. Then the Constitution can be amended," he added.

An announcement that the census will be conducted is not enough, it should be conducted and steps taken accordingly. BJP had opposed 73-74 amendments. It never favoured social justice. Those who have been opposing caste census have now announced that it will be conducted, he said.

On Union minister HD Kumaraswamy's statement that the state government's survey had no sanctity, Siddaramaiah hit back stating that when Puttaranga Shetty was Backward Classes minister in the Congress-JDS coalition government, Kumaraswamy did not accept the report. Kumaraswamy had threatened to remove Shetty from the cabinet.

On Union minister Dharmendra Pradhan's allegation that Nehru was against caste-based reservation and opposed caste census after Independence, Siddaramaiah dubbed it as BJP's false propaganda.

Siddaramaiah further said the Centre was using the state government's ideas, including SES and the five guarantees.

CM Siddaramaiah addresses the media in Bengaluru on Thursday | NAGARAJA GADEKAL

> **When Puttaranga Shetty was Backward Classes minister in the Congress-JDS government, HD Kumaraswamy did not accept the report. Kumaraswamy had threatened to remove Shetty from the cabinet**
>
> Chief Minister Siddaramaiah

Centre's move will put an end to state's caste census, says Vijayendra

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @ Bengaluru

KARNATAKA BJP president BY Vijayendra has said that the Union Government's decision to conduct a caste census along with the national population census will put an end to Chief Minister Siddaramaiah's attempts to divide the society in the name of a caste census conducted by the State Backward Classes Commission. Vijayendra said that the survey done by the State Backward Classes Commission in 2015 is outdated and used only to create divisions in the society. The Centre took the decision on the caste census to ensure all backward communities get justice and are empowered, he said.

Leader of Opposition in the Assembly R Ashoka asked the Congress to explain why it did not conduct a caste survey when it was in power at the Centre.

Congress never conducted a caste survey and the proposal for a caste census was rejected during Manmohan Singh's tenure, Ashoka told reporters. He said that the Congress should apologise for failing to conduct a national caste census and Siddaramaiah should explain why it was not done. The Modi-led government has decided to conduct a caste census to uphold social justice, he said.

Stating that only the Centre has the authority to conduct a caste census, and not the state government, Ashoka asked what would happen to the state's caste census report, prepared at a cost of Rs 150 crore. The CM must clarify the status of this survey as various communities are protesting against the report, he said. The BJP leader said the Centre's survey will be used by the Election Commission of India, but the state's report will not serve any purpose.

> **What would happen to the state's caste census report, prepared at a cost of Rs 150 crore? The Chief Minister must clarify the status of this survey as various communities are protesting against the report**
>
> Leader of Opposition in the Assembly R Ashoka

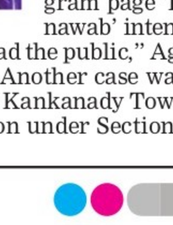
EXPRESS READ

MLC Vishwanath wants those raising pro-Pakistan slogans punished

MYSURU: BJP MLC AH Vishwanath has demanded strict action against individuals raising pro-Pakistan slogans, labelling them as anti-nationals who must be punished. Speaking to media persons here on Thursday, Vishwanath said that the government and police must not tolerate such behaviour. "People living in India and enjoying all its benefits cannot be allowed to support Pakistan," he said. He described the current political atmosphere similar to a war-like situation and urged people to stand with PM Narendra Modi. Welcoming the Centre's move to conduct a caste census alongside the general census, he urged leaders across communities to support the effort. He, however, questioned the credibility of state government's Socio-economic and Education Survey, accusing it of being politically motivated and lacking expert involvement. "How did they conduct the survey when there is no original report of the Kantharaj Commission report?" he asked. **ENS**

Rowdy accused in Fazil murder case hacked to death on outskirts of M'luru

MANGALURU: **Suhas Shetty**, a rowdysheeter and main accused in the murder of Fazil in Surathkal in 2022, was hacked to death on Thursday at Kinnipadavu at Bajpe station limits, on the outskirts of Mangaluru. Mangaluru City Police Commissioner Anupam Agrawal said the murder was carried out around 8.27pm. Suhas Shetty, travelling in a vehicle (KA-12-MB-3731) with Sanjay, Prajwal, Anvith, Latheesh and Shashank, was intercepted by a group of assailants travelling in a Maruti Swift and pickup vehicle. Five or six assailants suddenly jumped out and attacked Suhas with deadly weapons, causing grievous injuries. He was immediately rushed to AJ Hospital, where he succumbed to his injuries. A case was registered at Bajpe police station, and multiple teams were formed to nab the accused at the earliest. Suhas, who was associated with Bajrang Dal, was the main accused in the murder of Fazil, who was hacked to death in July 2022 in Surathkal. Fazil was allegedly murdered in revenge for the killing of BJP Yuva Morcha leader Praveen Nettaru. Suhas was involved in several murder and attempt-to-murder cases. The reason behind his murder is yet to be ascertained. Commissioner Agrawal told reporters that Suhas got out on bail in the Fazil case a year ago, and they had warned him of a threat to his life. He said it is suspected to be a revenge killing, though it is yet to be confirmed. **ENS**



MANGALURU MOB LYNCHING: ONE ARRESTED IN GOKAK, 21 IN NET

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @ Mangaluru

MANGALURU City Police Commissioner Anupam Agrawal on Thursday said they are yet to get any evidence or proper eyewitness to substantiate as to what triggered the mob lynching at Kudupu, and that another accused was nabbed in Gokak on Thursday morning.

He told reporters, "We have no proper eyewitness in the case to substantiate what triggered the assault. The accused and eyewitnesses claimed they saw a person -- Sachin, the main accused -- beating up a man. They did not know why he was beating up the man and just joined Sachin to support him."

So far, 20 people have been arrested. "A person named Anil was secured on Thursday morning from Gokak, taking the tally to 21. Our teams are in search of the absconding accused. We have issued notices to 15 more persons who were present during the incident, to appear for questioning. We are verifying CCTV footage available in the area, and questioning eyewitnesses on persons involved in the attack," he said.

Responding to a lapse on the part of local officers, he said, "On April 27, Mangaluru Rural police had received information about Ashraf's body lying near a temple at Kudupu, and a UDR case was registered initially. Later, officials visited the spot and we came to know there was a cricket match going on, and a person was assaulted at the same time. Though local police had information about the assault, they failed to bring it to our notice, due to which the case, which should have been directly taken up as a murder, was listed as a suspicious death. Hence, we suspended a police inspector and two constables for negligence on duty," he added.

Cops file 3 cases over fake social media posts

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @ Mangaluru

MANGALURU City Police registered three cases over the circulation of fake and inflammatory content on social media with an intent to incite unrest in the coastal city in connection with the recent mob lynching of **Ashraf** in Kudupu.

Mangaluru City Police Commissioner Anupam Agrawal said that misleading information was being circulated on social media. "With an intention to create unrest and disrupt communal harmony, certain individuals and groups have spread fake news and provocative content. We have registered a case at Konaje police station under Sections 192, 353(1), 353(2) of the BNS against a misleading post in the WhatsApp group 'BEARY MUSLIM ARMY', falsely claiming that the murder weapon (bat stump) used in the Kudupu incident had been recovered, and the post also questioned who was behind the crime. Another case has been registered at Barke police station under Section 353(2) of the BNS against false information related to the same incident, which was uploaded on the Instagram page 'Beary-royal-nawab' intending to mislead the public," Agarwal said.

Another case was registered at Kankanady Town police station under Section 353(1)(b) of BNS against fake and inflammatory content circulated in a WhatsApp group 'Maikallo Beary' with the intent to incite unrest in Mangaluru, in which Zakir Hussain, a resident of Munnur village in Ullal taluk, has been identified as the individual responsible for it.

"The police are committed to ensuring peace and harmony and will take strict action against those spreading misinformation or attempting to disturb public order...," he added.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi will visit Andhra Pradesh on Friday to lay the foundation stone and inaugurate a host of projects worth `58,000 crore in the state's greenfield capital, Amaravati

AP HC: Converts to Christianity lose SC status

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@ Vijayawada

THE Andhra Pradesh High Court has ruled that individuals belonging to Scheduled Castes (SC) lose their SC status immediately upon converting to Christianity, thereby forfeiting protections under the SC/ST (Prevention of Atrocities) Act.

The verdict, delivered by Justice N Harinath, came in response to a case involving Pastor Chintada Anand from Kothapalem, Guntur district, who had filed a complaint under the SC/ST Act.

In January 2021, Anand, a pastor for over a decade, lodged a complaint with the Chandolu police, alleging that Akkala Ramireddy and others had abused him based on his caste. The police registered a case under the SC/ST Act. However, Ramireddy and others challenged the case in the High Court, seeking its dismissal.

The petitioners' counsel, Phani Dutt, argued that Anand, having converted to Christianity and served as a pastor for ten years, no longer qualified as an SC member under the Constitution (Scheduled Castes) Order, 1950. The order states that SC individuals who adopt a religion other than Hinduism lose their SC status. Consequently, the complaint filed under the SC/ST Act was invalid.

Anand's counsel, Eerla Satish Kumar, countered that Anand held a valid SC Hindu caste certificate, asserting his eligibility for protections under the Act.

However, Justice Harinath clarified that conversion to Christianity, where caste distinctions do not exist, nullifies SC status regardless of any existing caste certificate.

The court noted that the SC/ST Act was enacted to protect SC and ST communities from discrimination and atrocities, but its provisions do not apply to those who have converted to other religions.

The court found that Anand had misused the SC/ST Act by filing a false complaint. Witnesses confirmed his decade-long role as a pastor, and the court criticized the police for registering the case without verifying his status.

WARM WELCOME

Kerala Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan receives Prime Minister Narendra Modi at Thiruvananthapuram International Airport on Thursday. The PM is in the state to commission the Vizhinjam International Seaport on Friday | EXPRESS

Kolar to resume tomato exports to Bangladesh, but with a condition

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@Bengaluru/Kolar

AFTER nearly a year, Kolar is set to resume tomato exports to Bangladesh — but with a condition: the trade must be restricted to Bangladesh only, and not routed to Pakistan.

The Kolar Agricultural Produce Market Committee (APMC) market is the second-largest tomato trade hub in South Asia, after Pimpalgaon in Nashik, Maharashtra.

"Tomato exports to Pakistan stopped about three years ago. Exports to Nepal and Bangladesh also ceased a year ago. In about a month, tomato exports to Bangladesh will resume. However, they must not be exported to Pakistan. All exports to Pakistan remain banned as per Central government orders. There is no loss to farmers or traders, as domestic demand in India remains strong," said M Narayanaswamy, president of the Tomato Traders and Growers Association.

He explained that exports to Bangladesh had halted not only due to political unrest in the neighboring country but also because of increased tomato production there, reducing their demand. "With the seasonal shift, demand is expected to rise again. Along with Maharashtra, we export to Dubai (via Mumbai), Bangladesh, Nepal, Afghanistan, Sri Lanka, Hong Kong and Singapore. However, exports have been lower this year," he added.

Every year from June to October, around 400 to 500 tonnes of tomatoes are transported daily from the Kolar APMC.

CMR Srinath, a farmer and tomato merchant, said farmers are willing to sell their produce at lower prices within India to safeguard the interests of the people.

Another trader mentioned that Bangladesh is prepared to import tomatoes from Kolar at ₹95 per kg and is not concerned about the additional cost. However, Indian traders have emphasised that the tomatoes must not be resold to Pakistan — a practice previously used to increase profits.

REVANTH SEEKS CONG HIGH COMMAND'S STAND ON MAOIST TALKS

Hyderabad: Favoring the idea of holding talks with Maoists, Chief Minister A Revanth Reddy has sought the advice and stand of the Congress high command. According to sources, the CM wrote a letter to AICC President Mallikarjuna Kharge on the matter. It may be recalled that a delegation led by Peace Dialogue Committee Convener Justice Chandra Kumar recently met with the chief minister, urging him to take the initiative in facilitating talks between the Maoists and the Centre. Following that meeting, the CM approached the party high command for guidance. Sources stated: "The chief minister has written to Kharge seeking the party's stand. He also sought advice and direction on how to proceed." The letter reportedly included references to past experiences, including the 2004 talks held with the then People's War group in united Andhra Pradesh. The CM clarified that both the state government and the party are firmly against violence. ENS

Hampi tour guide tears appreciation letter he got from 'pro-Pak' Turkey

KIRAN BALANNANAVAR
@ Hampi/Vijayanagara

A tourist guide in Hampi expressed his strong displeasure against Turkey reportedly supplying weapons to Pakistan, by tearing an appreciation letter he had received from the Turkish embassy officials who visited Hampi last December. Virupakshi V Hampi tore the letter in front of Virupaksha Temple in Hampi on Thursday.

The letter was given to him by the officials who had visited Hampi and Ballari where a memorial for Turkish soldiers is located. Virupakshi said the entire world has condemned the Pahalgam terror attack and he doesn't want an appreciation letter from a country that supports Pakistan.

Virupakshi said it's unfortunate that Turkey supplies weapons to Pakistan that to at a time when tension is high along the INdo-Pakistan border.

Virupakshi Hampi tears the appreciation letter in front of Virupaksha Temple in Hampi on Thursday| EXPRESS

In December, two officials — H E Firat Sunel, Ambassador of Turkey to India, and Orhan Yalman Okan, Consul General of Turkey in Hyderabad, visited the Turkey martyrs' pillar in Ballari and paid tributes.

"The state tourism department and Vijayanagara district tourism officer Prabhulinga Talakere had given me an opportunity to guide them. They went back to the embassy and sent me an appreciation letter," he said.

"I had a dream to join the Indian Army but it did not happen despite me making three attempts. Whatever my aim, my country and its safety is my top priority. I saw on national media that a flight carrying weapons had landed in Pakistan. So I decided that if any person or country supports our rival country, I don't want appreciation from them and I tore that letter in front of the Virupaksha Temple. In the memory of Turkish and Indian soldiers who laid down their lives in World War I, a memorial was constructed in Ballari," added.

Army, IAF to fly Dhruv again after crash probe

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@Bengaluru

THE Army and Air Force variants of the indigenous Advanced Light Helicopter (ALH) Dhruv have been cleared for operations, nearly four months after the entire fleet was grounded following a fatal crash in January.

In an official press release issued by the HAL on Thursday, the clearance was granted based on the recommendations of the Defect Investigation (DI) Committee, which looked into the cause of the January 5 crash in Porbandar. "A time-bound plan for the phased resumption of flying has been worked out with the users," the release said.

This clearance applies only to the Army and Air Force variants for now. The crash on January 5 involved an ALH Mark-III of the Indian Coast Guard, killing all three crew members during a training sortie. Following the incident, all 330 ALHs in service with the armed forces were grounded as a safety precaution.

Investigators had found that the chopper had failed to respond to pilot inputs in its final few seconds. The root cause was identified as a fracture in the swashplate assembly, a critical part in the helicopter's transmission system. HAL officials had also suspected that a rare material failure may have led to the malfunction.

Though the Army and Air Force variants have now been cleared, the advisory to civilian operators remains. HAL has asked them to keep their ALH Mark-III helicopters grounded until the investigation into the Porbandar crash is fully completed.

EXPRESS READ

Foresters catch elephant that killed estate owner in Sakleshpur

SAKLESHPUR: In the third elephant operation in Sakleshpur taluk in the past five months, a 20-year-old male elephant was captured at the Magadi Coffee Estate near Halasulige village on Thursday. Elephants have trampled four people to death in the last five months in Sakleshpur and Belur taluks in Hassan district. The elephant captured during Thursday's operation had trampled a 36-year-old coffee grower near Sakleshpur just a week ago. Six tame elephants were brought from various elephant camps across the state to assist in the operation. A team of forest officials, veterinarians and members of the Elephant Task Force captured the jumbo after a one-and-a-half-hour operation. ENS

Study shows Shiva Shakti point ideal for lunar sample collection

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @Bengaluru

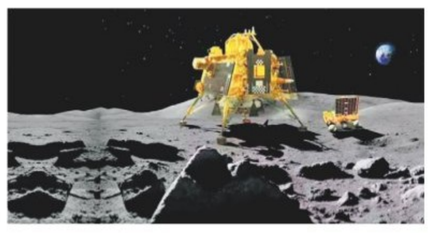
THE Shiva Shakti Point, the landing site of Chandrayaan-3 moon lander Vikram, is significant not only as a milestone in India's space achievements but also as a key site for lunar sample collection. This has been confirmed by researchers from the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) in a recent study.

According to scientists, the Chandrayaan-3 landing site offers a promising opportunity to access primitive mantle samples — materials that are notably absent in the current lunar collections obtained by other space agencies.

Researchers from the Physical Research Laboratory (PRL) in Ahmedabad analysed the presence of volatile elements near the Moon's south polar region. They used the Alpha Particle X-Ray Spectrometers (APXS) onboard the Pragyan rover, as part of the Chandrayaan-3 mission. Their findings suggest that the site is highly suitable for future missions focused on sample collection and the study of the Moon's evolution.

In their study, the scientists compared the elemental abundances measured by the APXS with existing datasets. They observed an unusual depletion of sodium and potassium, along with elevated levels of sulfur in the soil at the landing site.

A recent study published in Nature Communications Earth and Environment, titled 'Chandrayaan-3 APXS Elemental Abundance Measurements at Lunar High Latitude', also confirmed the presence of primitive lunar mantle materials at the landing site. These materials were likely excavated during the formation of the South Pole-Aitken (SPA) basin about 4.3 billion years ago and were subsequently redistributed by later impacts on the SPA basin ejecta, the ISRO report stated.



The primitive mantle is believed to have contributed to the excess sulfur, which mixed with other materials at the landing site. The low concentrations of sodium and potassium suggest that potassium, rare earth elements, and phosphorus (KREEP) were likely absent in this region during the SPA basin's formation. This finding reinforces the importance of the Chandrayaan-3 site for accessing primitive mantle material—something largely missing from existing lunar samples, according to the PRL scientists.

Chandrayaan-3's Vikram landed in the Moon's south polar region on August 23, 2023. The APXS instrument measured elemental compositions, including the abundances of volatile elements such as sodium, potassium, and sulfur in the highland soils. Concentrations ranged from 700–2800 ppm for sodium, 300–400 ppm for potassium and 900–1400 ppm for sulfur.

Upon detailed analysis, PRL scientists found that sodium and potassium concentrations at the Chandrayaan-3 site were significantly lower compared to those in samples collected during earlier missions (Apollo 16 and Luna 20). In contrast, sulfur concentrations were found to be 300–500 ppm higher. These anomalies in volatile element concentrations point to the need for further investigation into their origin and the geological processes that contributed to their enrichment or depletion at the landing site.

(Govt. of Karnataka)
KARNATAKA MEDICAL COLLEGE AND RESEARCH INSTITUTE, HUBLI
KMCRI/SUP(5)/**Radio/CT-Scan**/Tender/15/2025-26 dated 29.4.2025

ಇ-ಟೆಂಡರ ಪ್ರಕಟಣೆ (ಇ-ಪ್ರೋಕ್ಯೂರ್‌ಮೆಂಟ್ ಮುಖಾಂತರ)

ನಿರ್ದೇಶಕರು, ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ವೈದ್ಯಕೀಯ ಮಹಾವಿದ್ಯಾಲಯ ಮತ್ತು ಸಂಶೋಧನಾ ಸಂಸ್ಥೆ, ಹುಬ್ಬಳ್ಳಿ ಇವರು ಅರ್ಹ ಟೆಂಡರ್‌ದಾರರು, ಉತ್ಪಾದಕರು, ಅಧೀಕೃತ ಏಜೆಂಟ್ಸ್ ಮತ್ತು ಅಧಿಕೃತ ವಿತರಕರಿಂದ ಕೆ.ಎಂ.ಸಿ. & ಆರ್.ಐ. ಆಸ್ಪತ್ರೆಗೆ ಅವಶ್ಯವಿರುವ 128 Slice CT Scan ವೈದ್ಯಕೀಯ ಉಪಕರಣಗಳನ್ನು ಪೂರೈಸುವುದಕ್ಕಾಗಿ ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಪಾರದರ್ಶಕ ಸಾರ್ವಜನಿಕ ಪೂರೈಕೆ ಕಾಯ್ದೆ 1999 ಶಾಸನ 2000 ಅನ್ವಯ ಇ-ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಮೂಲಕ ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಪ್ರಕಟಣೆ ಆಹ್ವಾನಿಸಲಾಗಿದೆ. ಟೆಂಡರ್ ದಾಖಲೆಗಳನ್ನು ಪ್ರೊಸೆಸಿಂಗ್ ಶುಲ್ಕ ಇತ್ಯಾದಿ ವಿವರಗಳಿಗೆ ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಸರ್ಕಾರದ ಇ-ಪ್ರೊಕ್ಯೂರ್‌ಮೆಂಟ್ ಪೋರ್ಟಲ್‌ನ **https://www.kppp.karnataka.gov.in**ನಲ್ಲಿ ಪಡೆಯಬಹುದು. ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಸ್ವೀಕರಿಸುವ ಅಧಿಕಾರಿಯು ಯಾವುದೇ ಕಾರಣ ನೀಡದೇ ಟೆಂಡರನ್ನು ತಿರಸ್ಕರಿಸುವ ಅಧಿಕಾರವನ್ನು ಹೊಂದಿರುತ್ತಾರೆ.

ಸಹಿ/- (ನಿರ್ದೇಶಕರು),
ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ವೈದ್ಯಕೀಯ ಮಹಾವಿದ್ಯಾಲಯ ಮತ್ತು ಸಂಶೋಧನಾ ಸಂಸ್ಥೆ, ಹುಬ್ಬಳ್ಳಿ.

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Website: www.tnmsc.tn.gov.in E-Mail: gmdrug.tnmsc@tn.gov.in, mngrpurdrug.tnmsc@tn.gov.in

Online Tenders is invited by the Tender Inviting Authority, Tamilnadu Medical Services Corporation Ltd., Chennai – 600008, from the bidders meeting the eligibility criteria indicated in the tender document for the supply of **Mother and Baby Care Kit** to TNMSC Ltd for two years from the date of acceptance of the tender.

Sl. No	Description	e-Tender Reference	Tender Floating Period	e-Tender Submission Duration	Date and time of online opening of Technical Bids
1	Online Tender for the supply of **Mother and Baby Care Kit** to TNMSC Limited under rate contract system for two years from the date of acceptance	e-007/M(P)/MBC-KIT/ TNMSC/2025, Dated. 02.05.2025	02.05.2025 at 4.00 PM to 02.06.2025 upto 10.00 AM	16.05.2025 at 10.00 AM to 02.06.2025 upto 10.00 AM	02.06.2025 at 11.00 AM

The tender document can be downloaded and the tender shall be submitted at **https://tntenders.gov.in/.** The tender document can also be downloaded at **www.tnmsc.tn.gov.in** for reference purpose.
DIPR/1734/TENDER/2025
Tender Inviting Authority / General Manager (Drugs)

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PAN No.: AAAAI1781K, GST No.: 03AAAAI1781K2ZS
• Phone : +91-172- 2240121, 124, Extn: 1127, 1128 & 31 • Fax : +91-172-2240124 • https://www.iisermohali.ac.in
• Email: stores@iisermohali.ac.in • CPPP/Institute Website

IISERM(S&P)25/26/Pur-GTE Date: 26.04.2025

GLOBAL TENDER ENQUIRY

Sr. No.	Tender Ref. No.	Description	Last date & time for upload the tender
01	IISERM (1695) 24-25-Pur-GTE	Supply, Installation and Commissioning of an Advanced Liquid Calibration Unit for Volatile Organic Compounds with Accessories ID: **2025_IISRM_857883_1**	22.05.2025 up to 02.30 PM
02	IISERM (1698)24-25-Pur-GTE	Supply of Bernese GNSS Software for GPS processing **ID: 2025_IISRM_857437_1**	21.05.2025 up to 02.30 PM

Please visit the website for online submission of bids **https://gem.gov.in, https://eprocure.gov.in/eprocure/app** & **https://www.iisermohali.ac.in**.
Sd/-
Assistant Registrar (Stores & Purchase)

KARNATAKA POWER TRANSMISSION CORPORATION LIMITED
(CIN: U40109KA1999SGC025521)
No:CGM(Tech)/PS/2025-26 Date: 29.04.2025

BRIEF SHORT TERM TENDER NOTIFICATION
(Through Karnataka Public Procurement Portal only)

Karnataka Power Transmission Corporation Limited invites Bid on electronic mode for the following work against following Enquiry Number:

Tender Enquiry No./Name of the Work
KPTCL/2025-26/OW/ WORK_INDENT2221
Dismantling, Transportation (TO & FRO), **Repair of Faulty 20MVA & 31.5MVA Power Transformer,** Testing, Assembling, Erection and Commissioning of Repaired Power Transformer at KPTCL Destined Station on **Rate Contract Basis.**

The bids will be received through electronic tendering mode only. The details regarding participation in the e-tendering process can be obtained by logging on to the KPTCL website **https://kptcl.karnataka.gov.in** with hyperlink 'E Procurement KPTCL' or to **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in.** on **03.05.2025 from 16.00 hrs onwards.** The Last date and time for receipt of bids is **16.06.2025 at 15.00 hrs. Any extension of due date for bid submission will be intimated in the e-procurement portal.** Any details required in this regard can also be had from the Office of the undersigned during office hours.

All Corrigendum/Addendums shall be noticed by the bidder before the last date of submission of bids.

Sd/- Chief General Manager (Tech),
KPTCL, Corporate Office, 2nd Floor, Kaveri Bhavan, Bengaluru-560009.

BANGALORE WATER SUPPLY AND SEWERAGE BOARD

INVITATION FOR TENDERS (Through KPP Portal Only)

BWSSB invites Tenders from Registered agencies for the following works.

Office of the Chief Engineer (West), 6th Floor, Cauvery Bhavan, K.G. Road, Bangalore - 560 009.

Sl. No.	Division	IFT Number	Amount Put to Tender(Rs.) / EMD Amount(Rs.)	Last date & Time for submission of tender	Date and time for opening of tender
1	North West-2	BWSSB/EENW-2/TO/PB/ 86/2025-26 Dated:29.04.2025 (2nd Call)	Rs. 20,48,181/- / Rs. 50,000/-	11.05.2025 upto 4.00 p.m.	12.05.2025 after 4.30 p.m.

Sd/- Executive Engineer (North West-2)

Office of the Chief Engineer (South), 7th Floor, Cauvery Bhavan, K.G. Road, Bangalore - 560 009.

2	South-2	BWSSB/EES2/TO/PB/ 71/2025-26 Dated:28.04.2025(Call-4)	Rs. 77,95,942/- / Rs. 1,55,950/-	09.05.2025 upto 4.00 p.m.	12.05.2025 after 4.00 p.m.

Sd/- Executive Engineer (Souht-2)

The details regarding the tender and participating in the e-procurement process can be obtained by logging on to **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in** For further details contact the above signed office during working hours.

DIPR/CP/JA/411 /2025-26

KARNATAKA INDUSTRIAL AREAS DEVELOPMENT BOARD
(A Government of Karnataka Undertaking)
Special Land Acquisition Officer, 1st Floor, Maharshi Aravinda Bhavan, Nrupatunga Road, Bengaluru-1
No: Bangalore/SLAO-2/B.Urban/118/2025-26 Date:29.04.2025

CORRIGENDUM

This is to inform the public and the Khatedaras / Anubhavadhars / interested parties of the concerned land /properties in Bangalore Urban District, Anekal Taluk, Sarjapur Hobli, Muttanallur Amanikere, Handenahalli and Sollepura Villages have been notified for Industrial Area Development Project vide Notification No. CI 43 SPQ 2025 dated 24.03.2025 in Karnataka Gazette Special Gazette Part-3 dated 01.04.2025. If there are any objections to this land acquisition process, the objections can be submitted in writing to the office of the Special Land Acquisition Officer-2, KIADB, Special Land Acquisition Officer, 1st Floor, Maharshi Aravinda Bhavan, Nrupatunga Road, Bengaluru-560001, it was announced in the Kannada Prabha and INDIAN EXPRESS newspapers to appear for the hearing in person or through the authorized person, **at 11.00 AM on the dates: 02.05.2025, 06.05.2025, 09.05.2025, 13.05.2025 and 16.05.2025,** and However, due to some reasons, the hearing of the lands of the above villages has been postponed and fixed **at 11.00 AM** on the following dates, mentioned as below:

Sr.No	Villages	Date of enquiry	As per Notification Serial No.
1	Muttanallur Amanikere	02.06.2025	1 to 100
2		06.06.2025	101 to 200
3		09.06.2025	201 to 293
4	Handenahalli	13.06.2025	1 to 103
5	Sollepura	16.06.2025	1 to 112

If there are any objections to the above said land acquisition process of the above said villages, the Khatedars / landowners/ interested parties should appear in person or through their authorized representative to file their objections along with the necessary documents. It is hereby brought to the public notice that objections received after the deadline will not be entertained.

Sd/- Special Land Acquisition Officer-2, KIADB-Bengaluru Urban, Nrupathunga Road, Bengaluru

EDITORIAL

"The world is not ours to keep. We hold it in trust for future generations" — Kofi Annan

INDIAN EXPRESS IS NOT AN INDUSTRY. IT IS A MISSION.

— Ramnath Goenka

CASTE COUNT IN CENSUS WELCOME, BUT SOME BIG QUESTIONS COME NEXT

THE Union government has sprung a surprise by clearing the inclusion of caste enumeration in the long-awaited census. BJP leaders had been equivocal about it, sometimes stridently opposing it and at others sounding supportive. But the Congress had been clear in calling for such enumeration, with its state governments in Telangana and Karnataka bringing the issue to the fore in recent months. So, coming as it does months before the Bihar assembly election, where NDA constituent Janata Dal (United) has already conducted such a survey, the BJP has pulled a major poll plank from under the opposition. But the timing of the announcement amid the ongoing tensions with Pakistan prompts the question, 'Why now?' Such a decision is far too consequential to be timed for a short-term consideration like redirecting the nation's attention, but the question still begs for an answer.

In a country increasingly dependent on welfare schemes for the marginalised, a fresh caste enumeration has been due for a long time. Such numbers were last published in 1931; the caste data from the 1941 census and a socio-economic survey done in 2011 have not yet been made public. So there is merit in conducting such a count this time. No wonder a number of leaders across political divides have welcomed the Centre's decision. It needs to be heeded that even if the census is officially notified soon, it will take at least another half year to prepare for it, before beginning to conduct the enumeration exercise. So the fresh numbers will not be available before either the 2025 assembly election in Bihar or those in Tamil Nadu and Kerala in 2026.

All governments will be mindful of the hurdles in what comes next—first in conducting the count and then in acting on the new numbers. Will the government and the opposition work together to relax the 50 percent cap on reservations imposed by the Supreme Court? The top court has repeatedly affirmed the quota cap given in the *Indra Sawhney* case. In that judgement, the court had ruled that social and educational backwardness must be considered. Then there will be the question of delimitation. Meanwhile, all parties would do well not to make the census a tool to foment disharmony. For this, the onus lies on the opposition as well as the government.

100 DAYS THAT UNMADE U.S. EXCEPTIONALISM

WHILE Donald Trump's tariff tantrums grabbed more headlines during his first 100 days in office, lakhs of Indian parents are anxiously looking at his administration's hardline immigration enforcement and the next 100 days, when a fresh cohort of students will finalise their plans to study abroad. The anxiety is triggered by the US federal government's overzealous revocation of F-1 and M-1 student visas, mostly for protesting on campus or online. The National Association of Foreign Student Advisors reported that at least 1,400 students from over 200 colleges had their visa status changed by early April, two-fifths of them from India and China. After facing dozens of legal challenges, the administration reversed many of the revocations in late April. But amid scant official communication, many Indians are still unsure about when they can join back the courses their families took large loans to fund.

Adding to the anxiety is a new bill introduced in the US Congress to terminate the Optional Practical Training programme, which allows students to stay back in the US and work for up to three years after their studies. Indian students, especially the majority studying STEM courses, often use this route to earn in dollars and work towards employment visas. When the bill was introduced this March, Indian students in the US were already fewer by more than a fourth than in the previous March. If the bill emerges from the House judiciary committee's scrutiny and lurches towards enactment anytime soon, the number of students will surely take a dive.

It's not just Indians who are turning away from Trump's America. The administration's defunding of basic science research and gutting of diversity programmes have made the US increasingly unattractive to top talent. Three-fourths of the 1,600 scientists in the US recently polled by *Nature* said they were considering leaving for jobs in Europe, Canada and Asia. The trend of Chinese scientists returning home from the US—a wave that nearly tripled between 2010 and 2021—has changed the global research landscape. India, where the number of full-time researchers at government-funded institutes has fallen in recent years, must quickly absorb the lessons. Meanwhile, keep your eyes on the next 100 days—before the new academic season commences in August—when judicial pronouncements and executive action are expected to outline what foreign students can do to keep their American dreams alive.

QUICK TAKE

FINGER ON MANIPUR'S PULSE

IF we needed a reminder that things are not yet back to normal in Manipur, a recent letter from 21 state MLAs—including 13 BJP legislators—to the Union home minister should convince us. They called for return to a "popular government" after more than two-and-a-half months of president's rule. Meanwhile, the governor conducted a security review on Thursday after a land dispute between two Naga villages in Tamenglong district left 25 injured, including at least a dozen security personnel. None of this is normal. The state's communities have always wanted their genuine troubles to be heard. Popular representation across the state can follow grievance hearing sessions in the districts.

Article 105 gives MPs broad immunity to speak freely in the House, while Article 118 allows the House to set boundaries. It's time this tension is resolved through a law

IN DEFENCE OF FREE SPEECH IN PARLIAMENT

MANISH TEWARI

Lawyer, third-term MP and former Union Minister of Information and Broadcasting

DURING the recently-concluded budget session of parliament, a lighthearted repartee about who, how and in what order of precedence members get the right to address the House brought up a substantive issue. For when MPs speak in parliament, they articulate the views of millions of their constituents, often on critical issues. To speak is to breathe.

So, what are the privileges of an MP provided for in the Constitution? Where does the power to frame the rules and procedures for conducting business in both Houses of parliament flow from? How did the office of the chairperson of the Council of States and the speaker of the House get created? What are the powers, privileges and immunities that the Constitution bestows on these august offices?

Article 93 creates the offices of the speaker and deputy speaker by election, while Article 64 provides that the vice president would be the *ex-officio* chairperson of the Council of States. Articles 89 to 97 about the officers of parliament and the procedure to appoint and remove them.

However, the Constitution only partially defines, that too spread over different Articles, the scope of the presiding officers' powers. The roles of these constitutional functionaries are delineated more by convention, tradition, precedent, rules of procedure, directions for functioning, rather than by the Constitution itself. Conversely, Article 105, which deals with the powers and privileges of the Houses, their members and committees, is far more precise and expansive.

Essentially, it provides for four kinds of powers and privileges. The first is that, subject to constitutional provisions and parliamentary procedures, there shall be freedom of speech in parliament. Two words—constitutional provisions—refer to Article 19, which gives all citizens the right to freedom of speech and expression. Mind that the words 'shall' and 'may' have very different connotations in constitutional jurisprudence.

Second, MPs would be indemnified from proceedings in any court of law for anything said or done in parliament.

Third, the powers, privileges and immunities of parliament, its members and committees are the same as those available to the members of the House of Commons in the UK.

Fourth, all those persons who are constitutionally entitled to speak in the House or participate in its proceedings—for example, the attorney general, under Article 88—will have the same rights, privileges and immunities as enjoyed by the MPs. Under Article 118, parliament may frame rules for procedures to conduct its business, subject to constitutional provisions. Mark the word 'may' in this article, as opposed to 'shall' in Article 105(1).

SOURAV ROY

Therefore, the question that needs to be determined is whether and to what extent, if at all, can the freedom of speech of MPs in parliament provided under Article 105(1) be circumscribed by provisions of the Constitution, and the rules made in pursuance of the power available under Article 118?

India follows constitutional supremacy instead of the British view of parliamentary sovereignty. The Constitution provides and delimits the power of all state organs. Parliament has legislative authority. However, it is not absolute. In addition to the Constitution itself, it is ringfenced by the basic structure doctrine.

The Supreme Court ruled in *Kihoto Hollohan* (1992) that even anti-defection orders delivered by the presiding officers of legislative bodies are subject to judicial review, thereby underscoring that the powers exercised by presiding officers under the 10th Schedule are also not unfettered.

Furthermore, the court underlined in *Raja Ram Pal* (2007) that even parliamentary privileges are not free from examination, especially when they compromise democratic accountability or fundamental rights.

Parliament is, therefore, a creature of the Constitution under Article 79 and subject to its rigours.

As outlined earlier, Article 105(1) gives MPs the freedom of expression inside parliament, subject to certain caveats. This is a fundamental and inviolable constitutional right. The Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business, promulgated under Article 118, only control everyday proceedings. At best, these rules are subordinate laws, if not bye-laws, rather than constitutional mandates. Therefore, Article 105(1)'s rights cannot be substantially constrained through procedural guidelines.

In constitutional hierarchy, Article 105's clauses 1 and 3 have a better normative value. They have a direct constitutional provenance and form a part of the fundamental text passed by the Constituent Assembly, unlike parliamentary regulations promulgated under Article 118, whose remit is solely limited to conduct of business. Can procedural discretion trump legislative freedom provided by the Constitution? The answer is an obvious *non sequitur*.

The Supreme Court highlighted in *Special Reference No 1* of 1964 that Article 105(3)'s powers have to be read in line with Articles 21 and 32. Renowned constitutional expert H M Seervai also underlined that rules made under Article 118 are procedural and cannot substantially define the scope of rights or privileges, unless authorised by the Constitution.

But our system continues to be in a state of inertia on the codification of parliamentary privileges. Article 105(3) originally stated, "The powers, privileges, and immunities shall be those of the House of Commons of the UK at the commencement of the Constitution, until defined by parliament". That continues to be the case even today.

Rajendra Prasad had rightly apprehended during the Constituent Assembly debates that 'the definitive moment' may never arrive when these privileges are enacted into law. Other members such as H V Kamath and Alladi Krishnaswamy Iyer had also underscored the need for defining these privileges through law.

It's time for a clear exposition of the constitutional position on the inherent jurisprudential tension between Articles 105(1) and 118, for this goes to the heart of the parliamentary remit to hold both the executive and the judiciary accountable within the four corners of the Constitution. It is also now imperative that a law clearly codifying parliamentary privileges in terms of Article 105(3) is enacted. It's already 75 years too late.

(Views are personal)

(manishtewari01@gmail.com)

OLIVE BRANCH ON A GNARLY TREE

KAJAL BASU

Veteran journalist

HOW to end terrorism? Not to contain it, nor to wear it down, nor to thwart it with counter-terrorism. End it. Put it to sleep. Disappear it.

This is not a question taken lightly anywhere in the world. In 2024, according to the Institute for Economics & Peace's Global Terrorism Index, 98 of the world's 195 countries were contending with some form of terrorism. The question is especially crucial for India, because, with a score of 6.41 out of 10, India was at 14th place on the GTI list. It is even more critical for Pakistan, which occupied the 2nd place with a score of 8.374.

State counter-terrorism won't cut it, because, by definition, it partakes substantially of the characteristics of terrorism itself: counter-violence, often on populations vulnerabilised by the presence of unrepresentative terrorists in their midst; sanctions that immoderately impact these defenceless soak-pits; unmanaged—and often unmanageable—societal disruption caused by the crossfire between terrorism and counter-terrorism.

Clearly, both terrorism and counter-terrorism feed the wolf in an endless spiral of escalation. This happens nearly everywhere in the world. Nearly: but not in some advanced democracies such as in Scandinavia—where multifaceted terrorism does happen, but rarely enough to not attract statal blowback, which is constrained by embedded policies of restraint.

Terrorist attacks in northern Europe are so infrequent that they stand out in public memory. The worst one happened a decade-and-a-half ago, when the rightwing extremist Anders Breivik killed 77 people in Norway in an anti-government rage. In 2015, two people were killed by an Islamist in Denmark. In 2017, an Islamic terrorist killed five people in Sweden. In 2019, a Norwegian rightwinger and a Finn killed one person each. In 2022, two people were killed in a homophobic mass shooting in Norway. Despite these attacks, the Nordics remain the least impacted by terrorism. Only one Scandinavian country features in the Statista list of 10 worst terrorist attacks in terms of fatalities in Europe from 1980 to 2023: Norway. The only Scandinavian country to make it in the GTI's top 50 states was Sweden—at the very last spot, with a score of 1.84.

Meanwhile, in the countries most ravaged by terrorism—Burkina Faso, Pakistan, India, Russia and Nigeria among them—the government wears tactical gloves of studded iron. These are all countries whose level of democracy is contested within and without. Even in democratic countries, the measures—which are often counter-measures—to shield citizens from ultra-violence risk compromise the very foundations of democracy.

Policy measures such as warrantless searches, arrests on whimsical suspicion, protracted detention without bail or charge-sheet, and phone-tapping may be defended as protection features that need no referendum validation, but they are also civil rights infringements, for the very reason that they are not democratic, consultative decisions.

AFP

More than half the world's 195 countries were affected by terrorism in 2024. We in the subcontinent can learn from Scandinavian countries where radicalisation is minimised through a preventive network of schools, social and health services, and the police

According to NordForsk, "In the Nordic countries, prevention of radicalisation and violent extremism is based on an existing crime prevention collaboration within the SSP framework (school, social and health services, and police)."

In much of the subcontinent, statal measures to end terrorism resemble designs to scrap it out: immiserating populations of terrorist embedment in order to have them ejected by a public exhausted by their presence; the use of laws that have no place in a democracy; the proscribing of protesting groups; and the deployment of cutting-edge weaponry meant for defence against an outside enemy. This is as true of Pakistan—which has its bugbears in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and Balochistan—as it is of India, which has ultraviolent hotspots in Kashmir, Chhattisgarh, Jharkhand and, intermittently, in the Northeast.

In these countries, action and reaction are disconcertingly fungible. One can be mistaken for a mirror image of the other. It is a truism that the law is the government's domain of implementary privilege, terrorists being scofflaws, and the citizenry being only marginally capacitated.

But it does not necessarily have to be this way if terrorism is to be 'ended', its issues resolved, its maddened heartbeat calmed. The Scandinavian countries have what I would call simple terrorism: terrorist events not rooted in a sense of historical wrongs, or irruptions from sovereigntist or subnational impulses. India, Pakistan and many African nations have complex terrorism, where it is almost mandatory that grievances are indurated and long-unaddressed, and the former because of the latter.

So, what works for Scandinavia might not work here—or, at least, not with such comprehensiveness, integrality and efficacy. Nevertheless, what happened in Kashmir in the days following the Baisaran terrorist carnage is a lesson in self-service and holding to account—and, possibly, a way out of this unrelenting hyperviolent action-response mess. Kashmiris poured onto the streets—"for the first time in 35 years", emphasised Farooq Abdullah, president of the National Conference—protesting the massacre and branding the attackers as zalim (oppressors).

In a move that resembles excommunication, Maulana Mohammed Ahmed Nadvi, head of the All India Imams Council, passed fatwas ordering Muslim clerics to not conduct funeral prayers or provide burial grounds for terrorists. AIMIM president Asaduddin Owaisi distributed black armbands during Friday prayers at a mosque.

The last two might well have been performative. The first was not. Where the state fails, everything is up to the citizenry.

(Views are personal)

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MAILBAG

WRITE TO: letters@newindianexpress.com

Avoid war

Ref: *Reshape cost-benefit calculus of terror for long-term deterrence* (May 1). A war with Pakistan is not in our interest. It will result in further loss of innocent lives and damage our economy all the while exacerbating the hostilities between the two countries. We should use our influence in the international community to punish Pakistan.

T Kailash Ditya, Hyderabad

Canada reset

Ref: *A chance to mend India-Canada ties* (May 1). Mark Carney appears to be a pragmatic leader capable of safeguarding Canada's interests while navigating the challenges posed by Donald Trump. His appointment indeed presents India with an opportunity to mend its ties with Canada. The two countries must work together to revive discussions on the free trade agreement.

Sridevi Tejaswani, K Secunderabad

Treaty suspension

Ref: *Rivers that connect and divide* (May 1). India's decision to suspend the Indus Waters Treaty to support hydroelectric projects and apply pressure on Islamabad is justified following the recent terrorist attack in J&K, which killed 26 civilians. However, this move could backfire if China proceeds with its plans to build large dams on the Brahmaputra River, ignoring India's concerns.

N A Joseph, Ettumanoor

Dangerous policy

Ref: *Lawmaking can't be left to AI* (May 1). Letting AI make laws presents more risks than benefits. Incorrect data can have serious consequences. Who would be held responsible? What are the courses of correction? Many questions need to be addressed before trying to integrate AI models into lawmaking.

Jaikishan N, Kengeri

Caste call

Ref: *Centre to embed caste enumeration in census* (May 1). The Centre has made the right decision by including caste enumeration in the forthcoming census exercise. A caste census is a crucial tool for socio-economic assessment and the pursuit of equality. Its careful implementation is key to fostering a more just and inclusive society.

Jayaram Dunga, Visakhapatnam

Missed opportunities

Ref: Out of form, but not out of fans (May 1). Nothing has gone CSK's way this IPL season. The middle order failed to step up, and the openers missed crucial opportunities during the powerplays.

A P Thiruvadi, Chennai

THE NEW INDIAN EXPRESS

Chairman of the Board: **Manoj Kumar Sonthalia** Editor: **Santwana Bhattacharya**

Published by **R K Jhunjhunwala** on behalf of Express Publications (Madurai) Private Limited, at No. 1, Queen's Road, Bengaluru - 560 001 and printed by him at Express Press, Plot No. 2A, Bommasandra Industrial Area, 4th Phase, Survey No. 46, Part Yarandahalli Village, Jigani Hobli, Anekal Taluk. Bengaluru - 560 099. **Bengaluru.** Vol. 61, No. 104 RNI Reg. No. 3457/1960. Phone: 080-22866893. **Copyright:** Express Publications (Madurai) Private Limited. All rights reserved. Reproduction in any manner, electronic or otherwise, in whole or in part, without prior written permission is prohibited.

POSTS OF THE DAY

Piyush Goyal @PiyushGoyal
PM Ujjwala Yojana has become a major support for homemakers... Over past 9 years, 10.33 crore mothers & sisters have received free gas connections, ushering in prosperity

Priyanka Gandhi Vadra @priyankagandhi
Over 1 crore applications have been received for around 32,000 Group D posts in Railways. The BJP... make fun of unemployed youth by calling them 'aspiring youth'

Tejashwi Yadav @yadavtejashwi
We and our socialist leaders have made many sacrifices for caste census, equality & fraternity. We have suffered a lot of humiliation, and caste-based remarks

CASTE CENSUS: BJP questions Cong for sitting for decades on Kaka Kalelkar Commission's report, while Jairam Ramesh calls govt move a 'diversionary tactic'

Pradhan slams Cong's 'empty sloganeering'

They(Cong) were uncomfortable whenever the rights of the backward classes were raised as they never truly cared about social justice... social justice has been the aim of all our schemes. We have aimed to provide benefits to all sections

Dharmendra Pradhan

RAJESH KUMAR THAKUR @ New Delhi

THE BJP on Thursday countered the Congress' claim that it had compelled the Modi government to announce a caste census, alleging that Jawaharlal Nehru opposed caste-based reservation.

Union minister Dharmendra Pradhan attacked Congress' historical stance on caste enumeration by quoting from Nehru's 1951 letter to chief ministers expressing concerns that implementing reservations would result in a decline in quality.

Questioning the Congress for sitting for decades on the Kaka Kalelkar Commission's report, Pradhan said the Centre's decision on caste enumeration shows the contrast between the Modi government's "true intentions" and the Congress's "empty sloganeering".

Describing the move as a "game changer," Pradhan dismissed claims by Congress leaders, including Rahul Gandhi, that their persistent demand forced the government's hand. "The Congress is committed to one family only. It may have changed its appearance, but its stance on caste census and other national issues has been unchanged since the time of Nehru and Rajiv Gandhi," he asserted.

Pradhan described the Congress as "opportunistic", claiming that though Nehru and Rajiv Gandhi voiced opposition to caste-based reservation, "now this party, which is dedicated to the justice of a family, only speaks of social justice".

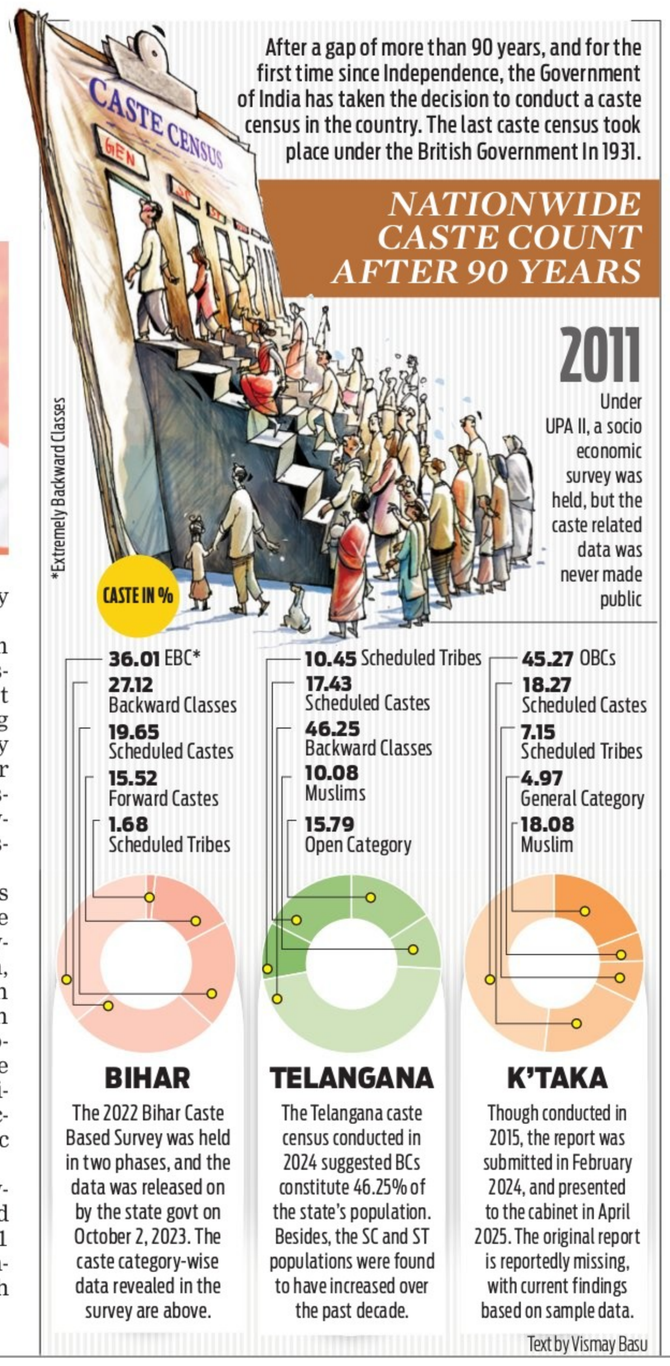
Challenging Congress's claim to social justice, Pradhan questioned why the party had not conducted a caste census during its long tenure in power. "They were uncomfortable whenever the rights of the backward classes were raised because they never truly cared about social justice," he alleged.

The caste census decision was not abrupt but part of Prime Minister Narendra Modi's governance mantra, 'Sabka Saath, Sabka Vikas'. "It is well known now that social justice has been the objective of all our programmes and schemes. We have aimed to provide benefits, facilities and conveniences to all sections of society in a scientific manner," Pradhan said.

He added that the Modi government, drawing from data and experiences from the past 11 years, aims to design more inclusive and fair policies through the caste census.

PM Modi had will: Chirag

Union minister Chirag Paswan on Thursday hailed Prime Minister Modi for the Centre's decision to include caste enumeration in the next census and slammed opposition parties for claiming credit. alleging they only used the issue as a "political weapon" to mislead people for votes.


CASTE CENSUS
GEN
*Extremely Backward Classes
CASTE IN %
NATIONWIDE CASTE COUNT AFTER 90 YEARS
After a gap of more than 90 years, and for the first time since Independence, the Government of India has taken the decision to conduct a caste census in the country. The last caste census took place under the British Government In 1931.
2011
Under UPA II, a socio economic survey was held, but the caste related data was never made public
36.01 EBC*
27.12 Backward Classes
19.65 Scheduled Castes
15.52 Forward Castes
1.68 Scheduled Tribes
BIHAR
The 2022 Bihar Caste Based Survey was held in two phases, and the data was released on by the state govt on October 2, 2023. The caste category-wise data revealed in the survey are above.
10.45 Scheduled Tribes
17.43 Scheduled Castes
46.25 Backward Classes
10.08 Muslims
15.79 Open Category
TELANGANA
The Telangana caste census conducted in 2024 suggested BCs constitute 46.25% of the state's population. Besides, the SC and ST populations were found to have increased over the past decade.
45.27 OBCs
18.27 Scheduled Castes
7.15 Scheduled Tribes
4.97 General Category
18.08 Muslim
K'TAKA
Though conducted in 2015, the report was submitted in February 2024, and presented to the cabinet in April 2025. The original report is reportedly missing, with current findings based on sample data.
Text by Vismay Basu

Cong seeks deadline of census, not 'headline'

So what kind of census are they (Centre) planning to get done in ₹575 crore? So what is the intention – is it just about giving a headline? What is their intention? ... They cite Covid pandemic but over 50 countries did census during Covid

Jairam Ramesh

PREETHA NAIR @ New Delhi

A day after the Centre announced caste census in the next census, Congress said that Prime Minister Modi is the 'master of giving a headline without a deadline' and called the government's caste census decision a 'diversionary tactic" in the face of demands for taking strong action against Pakistan following the Pahalgam terror attack.

Addressing a press conference in the capital, Congress general secretary in-charge communications Jairam Ramesh said many questions arise about the decision, especially on the intention of the government, and asked "where is the deadline" for conducting the census.

The Congress leader also reiterated the party's demand for amending the constitution to remove the fifty percent ceiling on the reservations for the SCs, STs and the OBCs.

Ramesh cited a December, 2019 Cabinet meeting press release which stated that the Union Cabinet has approved the proposal for conducting the census of India in 2021 at the cost of Rs 8,254 crore.

He pointed out that there was no mention of caste enumeration in that press release.

"Everyone knows that this census has not been done and six years have passed. Surprisingly, the announcement was made by the government yesterday," he said. Ramesh, however, urged the government to keep a roadmap for the caste census before the country.

In the 2025-26 Budget, only Rs 575 crore has been allocated to the office of the census commissioner, he pointed out.

"So what kind of census are they planning to get done in ₹575 crore? So what is the intention – is it just about giving a headline? What is their intention? Many questions arise on the intention," the Congress leader said.

"You should have gotten the census done in 2021. They cite the Covid pandemic but more than 50 countries did their census during Covid. The pandemic was not there in 2023, 2024, but they did not get it done," Ramesh said.

He said when the PM was giving a string of interviews to TV channels last year, he had called those who talk of caste census "urban naxals".

Congress bigwigs to meet today

Top Congress leaders will deliberate on the Pahalgam terror attack and the caste census at a crucial meeting of the party's working committee on Friday evening. Sources said the CWC is likely to pass resolutions seeking immediate action against Pakistan and for allocating funds to get the caste census conducted at the earliest.

June deadline to provide health benefits

S LALITHA @ New Delhi

GIG WORKERS
Gig and platform workers in the country: 1 crore-plus workers
Niti Aayog projected growth by 2029-2030: Nearly 2.35 crore workers
Govt has asked all major aggregators to register their employees on e-shram portal
Ministry working on providing pensions and other social security benefits to gig workers
June-end deadline to provide health insurance coverage to all

THE Ministry of Labour and Employment plans has fixed a deadline of June-end to provide health coverage to all the gig and platform workers in the country, said Labour Ministry sources. Over 1 crore workers are presently employed in these fields which cover delivery, ridesharing, logistics and other professional services.

A source said, "The Labour Ministry has written to aggregators of all services across the country including major ones like Swiggy, Zomato, Uber, Ola and Rapido, asking them to onboard their workers on to the Ministry's e-shram portal at the earliest. Workers are also encouraged to register on the portal. We have fixed a deadline of June-end to ensure all of them are covered under the Ayushman Bharat Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana (AB-PMJAY)."

Recognising the contribution of the workers to the country's economy, the 2025-2026 budget announced coverage for them under AP-PMJAY. The AB-PMJAY health scheme provides a cover of ₹5 lakhs per family per year for secondary and tertiary care hospitalization across over 31,000 public and private empanelled hospitals in India.

A recent report by NITI Aayog has projected that the gig economy in India will employ nearly 2.35 crore by 2029-30.

A parliamentary standing committee report on Labour tabled in the Lok Sabha by MP Basavaraj Bommai in March had stated that of the nearly 35 lakh platform workers eligible for registration on the e-shram portal which offer them health, social security and numerous other benefits, only 70,306, have registered upto February.

CITU General Secretary Tapan Sen told this newspaper, "The condition of such workers is completely pathetic and they are fully exploited by their employers. They spend for their bikes, its maintenance, its fuel and other expenses related to their work and the employees take upto 40% of their earnings. Without any investment in the infrastructure, the employer gets a huge income."

Labour ministry sources also said they were also working on providing social security benefits like pensions and accidental insurance for these gig workers. "Work on it has just begun and this would help them enormously."

'Rising mercury hurts workers in informal sectors'

JITENDRA CHOUBEY @ New Delhi

RISING temperatures are leading to significant productivity losses, particularly among street vendors, and posing serious health risks, according to a new report. The report highlights that for every 1°C increase in temperature, informal workers' earnings can decrease by up to 19%. Income losses could reach 40% due to unbearable midday heat and reduced business activity.

Additionally, medical expenses for these workers are rising by approximately 14%, underscoring the severe connection between climate change, health, and economic stability, says the study by Greenpeace India.

The report – 'Ground Zero: Climate Experiences among Informal Workers in Delhi' – said an average street vendor earns around ₹1,000 on normal day. However, the extreme heat disrupts their regular earnings.

SC says unauthorised construction must be demolished at any cost

SUCHITRA KALYAN MOHANTY @ New Delhi

THE Supreme Court has held that no leniency should be shown towards illegal and unauthorised constructions, saying that these structures must be demolished.

"A person who has no regards for the law cannot be permitted to pray for regularisation after putting up unauthorised construction of two floors. The unauthorised construction has to be demolished... Justice is to be rendered in accordance with law. We are at pains to observe that the aforesaid aspect has not been kept in mind by many state governments while enacting Regularisation of Unauthorized Development Act based on payment of impact fees," a bench of justices JB Pardiwala and R Mahadevan said while dismissing an appeal filed by one Kaniz Ahmed.

Ahmed had allegedly built a two-storied unauthorised building in Kolkata. Earlier the Calcutta High Court dismissed his prayer, forcing him to move the top court for relief.

"The law ought not to come to rescue of those who flout its rigours as allowing the same might result in flourishing the culture of impunity," the Supreme Court order read. "If the law were to protect the ones who endeavour to disregard it, the same would lead to undermine the deterrent effect of laws, which is the cornerstone of a just society."

Upholding the HC ruling, which had refused to allow regularisation of the unauthorised construction and ordered demolition. "We must adopt a strict approach while dealing with cases of illegal construction and should not readily engage in regularisation of buildings erected without requisite permissions," it said.

"The need for maintaining a firm stance emanates not only from inviolable duty uphold rule of law, rather such judicial restraint gains more force in order to aid the well-being of all concerned," the SC held.

No tree-cutting in 5km of Taj Mahal without nod: SC

SUCHITRA KALYAN MOHANTY @ New Delhi

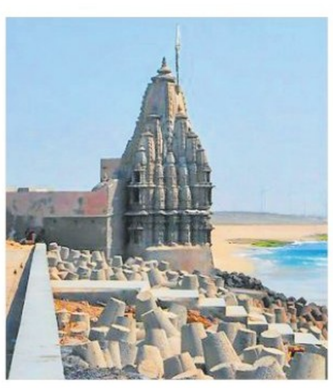
THE Supreme Court on Thursday reiterated its 2015 directive restricting tree felling within 5-km aerial distance of the Taj Mahal in Agra without its nod. The court was hearing a plea by environmentalist MC Mehta seeking directions to prevent the Taj from hazards.

The Taj Trapezium Zone (TTZ), an area of 10,400 square-kilometre, spreads across Agra, Firozabad, Mathura, Hathras, and Etah districts in UP and Bharatpur in Rajasthan.

A bench of justices Abhay S Oka and Ujjal Bhuyan said tree felling in areas within TTZ beyond the 5 km distance of the monument will require the prior permission of the central empowered committee and bound by the provisions of UP Tree Preservation Act.

New impetus to historical remnants as ASI plans to expand underwater wing

PARVEZ SULTAN @ New Delhi



EXPLORATIONS to uncover submerged historical and cultural remnants in India may get a fresh impetus as the Archaeological Survey of India (ASI) aims to expand and strengthen its Underwater Archaeology Wing (UAW).

In the Central Advisory Board of Archaeology (CABA) meeting held on Wednesday, Union Minister for Culture Gajendra Singh Shekhawat and the department secretary proposed to augment the wing's size and scope of operations.

Sources privy to the discussion said the ASI will soon engage 20-25 additional archaeologists and train them for the UAW to then take up more explorations in the coastal region of Maharashtra and water bodies in Madhya Pradesh.

The UAW had been defunct for over 15 years before its recent revival. In February, it resumed explorations at the ancient sites off the coast of Dwarka in Gujarat.

"We are training more people to take up underwater work. Now, we have a solid team of five people, including three new divers. Earlier, there were just two and one of them was a photographer. Many divers are approaching us. There is one in the Army. To strengthen this unit, we must plan how to work in our field offices," officials said.

Established in 2001, the UAW has explored at least 11 sites in the Arabian Sea, Indian Ocean, Bay of Bengal, Ariyankuppam River and Loktak Lake in Manipur. In collaboration with the Indian Navy, it has also excavated the wreck of a ship, Princess Royal, in the Lakshadweep waters in 2003.

The ASI now plans to conduct more underwater archaeological research in different states in collaboration with other institutions.

Officials said, "We are going to Maharashtra next month to negotiate with the government regarding the underwater archaeological sites in the state. We will also work with the port authorities on all coastal sites. If our expertise is needed, we will advise them on retrieving of antiquities."

If the negotiations with Maharashtra are successful, the ASI will begin explorations in the Arabian Sea region at significant heritage sites such as the Sindhu, Durga, and Janjira forts. "We hope that underwater archaeology will become interesting in India. We have started the process and will continue it," officials added.

'8% of bacterial infections treated appropriately'

KAVITA BAJELI-DATT @ New Delhi

ONLY 8% of the bacterial infections reported in India in 2019 were treated appropriately, reveals a latest analysis of low- and middle-income countries.

The data, published in The Lancet Infectious Diseases journal, show that in 2019, nearly 15 lakh bacterial infections were resistant to carbapenems – a common antibiotic agent commonly used for treatment of severe bacterial infections in eight countries where the study was conducted.

Carbapenems are used for treating severe infections like those acquired from being in hospitals, where antibiotic-resistant bacteria are abundant.

The study – held in eight countries, including Bangladesh, Pakistan and Mexico – revealed that of the 15 lakh bacterial infections reported, only over a lakh treatment courses were procured.

The resulting treatment gap meant that only 6.9% of the patients were treated appropriately, said the study, which included researchers from the Global Antibiotic Research and Development Partnership (GARDP), Switzerland.

"India procured most of the treatment courses (80.5%; 83,468 courses), with 7.8% of infections treated appropriately," the study read.

The most-procured antibiotic was tigecycline – usually prescribed in hospitals for case of serious infections.

Most of the 15 lakh infections were found to have occurred in South Asia, with over 10 lakh infections estimated to have occurred in India.

The study also estimated that over a million died every year during the 1990-2021 period due to antibiotic resistance, where disease-causing bacteria were immune to drugs developed to eliminate them, thereby rendering these drugs ineffective.

Over the past 25 years, antimicrobial resistance (AMR) has emerged as a major global health threat. With bacterial drug resistance rates continuing to increase, and without concerted action to inhibit it, almost 40 million cumulative deaths are projected by 2050.

For the latest study, data from a systematic analysis of the burden of bacterial antimicrobial resistance from 1990 to 2021 – named 'GRAM' (Global Research on Antimicrobial Resistance) study – was analysed, along with that from a healthcare database managed by IQVIA, a US-based firm.

The authors said the findings highlight the most recent scenario of the state of health care for antimicrobial-resistant infections in the selected low- and middle-income countries.

The results also underscore the need for meaningful action by global and national policy makers, the authors asserted.

The study highlighted that an estimated 1.1 million deaths annually are a direct result of AMR – more than the combined deaths due to HIV/AIDS and malaria in 2022.

Overwhelmingly, low & middle-income countries bear most of this burden – nearly 90% of AMR-related deaths each year.

LANCET REPORT FINDINGS

1. Among nearly 15 lakh bacterial infections reported in 8 countries under the study, only over a lakh treatment courses procured
2. India procured the most number of treatment courses (83,468), with 7.8% of infections treated appropriately: Lancet study
3. With bacterial drug resistance rates spiking, and no concerted action to inhibit it, almost 40 million deaths projected by 2050
4. Low & middle-income countries bear the brunt of antimicrobial resistant bacterial infections with nearly 90% deaths each year

IN LOVING MEMORY

A blood donation camp was organised in Haryana's Karnal on Thursday on the 27th birth anniversary of Indian Navy officer Lieutenant Vinay Narwal, who was among the 26 killed in the Pahalgam terror attack.

2 DEAD AS PICKUP VEHICLE HITS BIKE IN UP's KAUSHAMBI

INDIA	Max	Min		Max	Min
Ahmedabad	42	28	Mumbai	34	27
Bhopal	39	26	Panaji	36	30
Jaipur	38	28	Patna	33	26
Amritsar	33	23	Lucknow	34	26
Chennai	33	29	Port Blair	31	27
Kolkata	32	26	Imphal	26	18
Srinagar	24	11	Chandigarh	33	22

● Says fight against terrorism will continue till the menace completely wiped out ● Search ops extended beyond 12km radius of attack site

SHAH WARNS OF 'CHUN CHUN KE JAWAB...'

MUKESH RANJAN @ New Delhi

REITERATING the government's 'zero tolerance' policy against terrorism, Union Home Minister Amit Shah, in his first public remarks after the Pahalgam terror attack asserted on Thursday that every terrorist involved in the ghastly act will be tracked down and made answerable.

Addressing an event in Delhi to unveil a statue of Upendra Nath Brahma, the patriarch of Assam's Bodo community, and name a road after him, Shah said, "Terrorists should not think that they have achieved their big victory after killing 26 people. This fight is not over yet. Chun chun ke badla lenge (we will take revenge on all terrorists)."

"Har vyakti ko chun chun ke jawab bhi milega, jawab bhi diya jayega (everyone responsible for the act will be made to answer). This is the Narendra Modi government; no one will be spared. It is our resolve to uproot terrorism from every inch of this country, and it will be accomplished...," he said.

The home minister said. "In this fight, not only 140 crore Indians but the whole world is standing with India. All countries have come together and are standing with the people of India in this fight against terrorism. I want to reiterate the resolve that until terrorism is eradicated, our fight will continue, and those who have committed it will certainly get appropriate punishment."

He said, "Today, I want to tell the public that we have been fighting strongly on the policy of zero tolerance against those who have been running terrorism in Kashmir since the 1990s. Today, they (terrorists) should not think that they have won the battle by taking the lives of our citizens. I want to tell all those who spread terror that this is not the end of the battle; every person will get a befitting reply."

Tension escalated between India and Pakistan following the Pahalgam terror attack on April 22, in which 26 people were killed.

The Cabinet Committee on Security (CCS), chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, met on April 23 and was briefed in detail on the terror incident. The government said terrorists responsible for the attack and the conspirators behind it would face severe punishment. It announced a series of measures, including the suspension of the Indus Waters Treaty, to send a strong message to Pakistan for its support of cross-border terrorism.

TERROR in KASHMIR

1.5-yr-old Pak girl gets relief

In a relief for an Indian mother in Rajasthan, her 1.5-year-old girl Adarshni — a Pakistani citizen by birth — has been granted special permission to remain in India with her.

NIA chief reviews terror probe

NIA chief Sadanand Vasant Date on Thursday visited the Baisaran meadow in Pahalgam to supervise the investigations into the recent terror attack.

Pak pulls the plug on Indian songs

Amid Indo-Pak tensions, Pakistan Broadcasters Association (PBA) has stopped airing Indian songs on FM radio stations.

'Backers and planners must be...': Jaishankar dials Rubio

JAYANTH JACOB @ New Delhi

EXTERNAL Affairs Minister S Jaishankar has told US Secretary of State Marco Rubio that the "perpetrators, backers, and planners" of the Phagalgam terrorist attack "must be brought to justice" as the assault has escalated tensions between India and Pakistan.

Following the call, Jaishankar posted on 'X', emphasising that the "perpetrators, backers, and planners of the attack must be held accountable and brought to justice."

Stepped in to urge restraint, Rubio spoke separately with Jaishankar and Pakistani PM Shehbaz Sharif on Wednesday, calling for both countries to de-escalate and engage in dialogue. According to the State Department, Rubio expressed strong support for India's fight against extremism and pressed Pakistan to cooperate fully in the investigation.

"The Secretary urged Pakistani officials' cooperation in investigating this unconscionable attack," State Department spokesperson Lauren Bruce said. She added that both India and Pakistan had reaffirmed their commitment to holding terrorists accountable.

Sharif, in his call with Rubio, urged the US to press India to "dial down the rhetoric and act responsibly."

India has blamed Pakistan-based terrorists for the coordinated assault, and in response, has taken a series of tough diplomatic and strategic steps. These include downgrading diplomatic ties with Islamabad, suspending the 1960 Indus Water Treaty — an unprecedented move — and cancelling all visas previously issued to Pakistani nationals. The Wagah-Attari border has been shut down, further straining bilateral ties.

Despite the sharp escalation, the US emphasised the need for measured responses. "We're engaging both sides to lower the temperature. The risks of miscalculation are significant when tensions run this high, especially between two nuclear-armed neighbours," Bruce said.

The Pahalgam attack marks one of the deadliest in the region in recent years and threatens to unravel what little diplomatic progress has been made. The US has pledged continued engagement to prevent further deterioration and to ensure accountability for the victims.

Fate of BSF jawan who strayed into Pak uncertain

MUKESH RANJAN @ New Delhi

THE fate of Border Security Force (BSF) constable PK Sahu, who inadvertently crossed over the border into Pakistan a few days ago, hangs in the balance as back-to-back meetings between BSF officials and the Pakistan Rangers fail to yield any result. Over the past eight days, seven meetings have been held between officials of the two forces regarding his release. But the discussions didn't make any headway as the BSF officials were met with the same reply from their Pakistani counterparts each time — "We are waiting for directions from the higher-ups."

Officials say the Pakistan Rangers are dragging their feet on the matter, citing "a lack of direction from their seniors" as the reason for not handing over the jawan to India.

They said that in each of the meetings, which lasted nearly 15 minutes, the Rangers' authorised negotiators repeated the excuse that they are "still waiting for instructions from their higher-ups".

The last meeting, which was held on Wednesday, was not very promising either, as the Rangers reiterated that they were yet to receive a direction from the authorities concerned in this regard, a senior BSF official said.

Such inadvertent crossings by troops or civilians are not unheard of; these are typically resolved through established military protocols. The detained personnel are usually repatriated after procedural flag meetings. But since this incident comes amid ever-growing tensions between the two nations in the wake of the Pahalgam attack, the stakes remain high.

Gates of Attari border shut, people stranded

HARPREET BAJWA @ Chandigarh

UNCERTAINTY prevailed at the Integrated Check Post (ICP) at Attari as gates were shut on Thursday after the deadline for Pakistani nationals to return to their country lapsed on Wednesday. Many who came to the post from various states, including Jammu and Kashmir, Rajasthan, and Delhi, are waiting to cross. No Indian national could return from the other side, either, sources said.

This happened despite the Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) amending its earlier directive permitting Pakistani nationals to leave India via the ICP at Attari until further notice. The original order was to close the border on May 1.

A Delhi resident, Mohammad Shariq, whose sisters are married in Karachi, said that the Pakistani side was not allowing them to cross the border. "I came here with my sisters early in the morning. The border opens at 10 am. When we asked the officials, they said our government had given the order, and we are sending people from here, but Pakistani authorities are not allowing them to cross over. ''

The Attari border has been witnessing a heavy rush of people from either side to cross over after the Union government ordered all Pakistani nationals with short-term visas to leave India in the wake of the Pahalgam terror attack.

In the last seven days, 911 Pakistanis have left the country, including 125 who departed on Wednesday alone. Similarly, 152 Indian nationals and

73 Pakistani nationals with long-term Indian visas entered India through this border on Wednesday, totalling 1,617 and 224, respectively.

Sources said police escorted many Pakistani nationals from Jammu and Kashmir to Attari. Murawat Hussain Shah from Rajouri camewith his cousins Saida Zameer Fatima and Saida Saheer Fatima, both of whom are being deported to Pakistan. Hussain said that his cousins had arrived in India in 1983 on valid visas after the death of their father and brother, and now both sisters have nobody in Pakistan. "Everything they have is in India; they do not want to leave," he said.

Sixteen Pakistani Hindu nationals who had come to Haridwar for post-death rituals for their elders could not arrive on Wednesday as their taxi broke down.

Another Pakistani national from Karachi, whose four-year-old child is an Indian passport holder, said that either she should be allowed to stay here with her child or she should be allowed to accompany the child to Pakistan.

I came here with my sisters early in the morning. The border opens at 10 am. When we asked the officials, they said our government had given the order, and we are sending people from here, but Pakistani authorities are not allowing them to cross over.

Mohammad Shariq, A Delhi resident whose sisters are married in Karachi

Fadnavis: Ready to lead as creative superpower

SUDHIR SURYAWANSHI @ Mumbai

MAHARASHTRA Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis on Thursday said that the entertainment industry will play a significant role in the state's development and that India is ready to emerge as a creative superpower.

Speaking at the World Audio Visual and Entertainment Summit (WAVES) in Mumbai, which was inaugurated by PM Narendra Modi earlier in the day, Fadnavis said that various sectors are contributing to Maharashtra's growth, and in the coming years, the entertainment economy will be the new engine of development for the state and the country.

"A media and entertainment city will be developed across 120 acres within Mumbai's 500-acre Film City. That will be dedicated especially to animation, gaming, and visual effects (VFX). Both these projects will be launched in the coming months," he said.

Fadnavis said that through the WAVES, India has demonstrated its leadership in the creative sector. "Under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, India has emerged as a global economic powerhouse, and now the country is poised to lead in the creative industry as well," he added.

Highlighting Maharashtra's strengths in information technology, skills, and talent, the Chief Minister invited everyone to embrace India's new 'Creative WAVES'.

"The entertainment sector is the new growth engine for Maharashtra and India. In the digital age, content travels faster than any product, and Maharashtra is at the forefront of this revolution. WAVES is not just a summit but a movement, inspired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi and taking shape in Maharashtra," he said.

"Today, digital content, music, animation, and games are being shaped at a global level. The state government is creating a conducive environment and will implement robust policies to support this transformation," Fadnavis added.

In his welcome address, Union minister Ashwini Vaishnaw said for the first time, an Indian Institute of Creative Technology (IICT) will be established in Mumbai, with a funding of ₹400 crore approved by the Central government. Global giants like Google, Apple, Microsoft, and Adobe will collaborate in setting up this institute.

'Entertainment economy new growth engine'

Speaking at the WAVES in Mumbai, which was inaugurated by PM Modi earlier this day, Fadnavis said that various sectors are contributing to Maharashtra's growth, and in the coming years, the entertainment economy will be the new engine of development for the state.

After years of efforts in J'khand, Jaigir becomes 1st PTR village to be relocated

MUKESH RANJAN @ Ranchi

YEARS of efforts by Jharkhand forest officials have finally paid off, with Jaigir, located inside the Palamu Tiger Reserve (PTR), becoming the first village to be entirely relocated outside the core area. The exercise will reduce biotic pressure on the wild habitat and provide space, free from human intervention, for the wild animals.

Jaigir's new location is near Polpol village, just outside the core area. The original Jaigir will become a grassland to attract tigers' prey. Eight more villages have been identified for relocation.

The reserve covers 1129.93 square km of land, with a core area of 414.08 square km, where these villages are currently located.

According to PTR Deputy Director Kumar Ashish, they pursued relocation efforts seriously in 2023, and he began talking to the villagers and explaining the benefits of moving out of the PTR area.

Referring to the idea of developing Polpol as a model village, he said, "The objective is to convince and inspire people in other villages to relocate."

Twenty-two households with 160 people have shifted to the new Jaigir on a 75-acre plot. Nearly 1,000 square kilometres of land has been freed for the wild animals afterJaigir got vacated.

The Deputy Director recalled that winning the villagers' confidence was the biggest challenge as they were suspicious about getting adequate compensation and alternate land.

"Providing five acres of land to every household was impossible as there was more than one claimant inside a household. So, the solution was to give a piece of land to one person in the family and pay the rest compensation of ₹15 lakh," he said.

Construction of new homes has begun, and the villagers are currently living in makeshift accommodation organised by the forest department. The villagers also seemed happy to relocate. They have roads and transport and don't have to walk long distances.

CHANDIGARH DIARY

HARPREET BAJWA
Our correspondent in Chandigarh
hsbajwa73@gmail.com

Punjab govt employees available on phone 24x7

Do you feel bugged if you get a work-related call beyond the office hours? If yes, count yourself lucky in case you don't work for the Punjab government. The state has ordered its employees to remain available on their mobile phones at all times, including on public holidays. They have been forbidden from switching off their phones. Sources say it was the Personnel Department that issued these instructions. Besides, administrative secretaries of the departments concerned have been asked to ensure compliance with the directions. The urgency of certain administrative tasks has been cited as the reason behind the move.

Channi 'missing' no more! MP puts rumours to rest

It has been around 10 months since Charanjit Singh Channi got elected as a Member of Parliament from Jalandhar. But it seems like he can't catch a break. Posters declaring the former Punjab Chief Minister 'missing' were plastered across the city by his political detractors recently. BJP Punjab's Yuva Morcha put up such posters in localities up and down the Jalandhar Cantt Assembly segment. The controversy blew up further as former MP and saffron party leader Sushil Kumar Rinku shared similar posters on social media. Channi shrugged off the criticism, quipping, "I hope that engaging in such activities helps BJP leaders get some publicity." Wow!

The revolving door of Punjab's Vigilance Bureau

The recent suspension of Punjab Vigilance Bureau Chief Director SPS Parmar — a 1997 batch IPS officer — by the AAP-led Punjab government has raised eyebrows. After all, it is the third time in just three months that the vigilance bureau chief in the state has been shown the door. Parmar had taken over from G Nageshwar Rao, an IPS officer of the 1996 batch, who was given his marching orders in just a month after assuming charge. Before that, in February, Varinder Kumar — who belonged to the 1993 batch of IPS — was transferred. Kumar, who was appointed as the VB chief in May 2022, is yet to get any posting, though he is set to retire on July 31.

44
Ethiopians rescued by South African police from suspected traffickers

GLOBAL WEATHER

LR: Light Rain • HR: Heavy Rain • LS: Light Snow • TDS: Thundershower • LC: Light Cloud • SNY: Sunny

Beijing	26	11	LC	Los Angeles	17	10	SNY
Colombo	32	25	TDS	Melbourne	18	13	LC
Dhaka	34	27	LC	Moscow	5	0	LC
Dubai	42	31	SNY	New York	14	6	LR
Houston	30	22	LC	Singapore	31	25	TDS
Istanbul	17	12	LR	Toronto	8	1	LC
London	17	8	SNY	Washington	23	8	TDS

Ukraine buys US support with mineral deal

Agreement promises mutual benefits, new investment fund, military aid for Kyiv, access to rare earth minerals for US

KYIV

AFTER months of tense negotiations, the US and Ukraine signed a deal that is expected to give Washington access to the country's critical minerals and other natural resources, an agreement Kyiv hopes will secure long-term support for its defence against Russia.

According to Ukrainian officials, the version of the deal signed Wednesday is far more beneficial to Ukraine than previous versions, which they said reduced Kyiv to a junior partner and gave Washington unprecedented rights to the country's resources.

The agreement — which the Ukrainian parliament must ratify — would establish a reconstruction fund for Ukraine that Ukrainian officials hope will be a vehicle to ensure future American military assistance. A previous agreement was nearly signed before being derailed in a tense Oval Office meeting involving US President Donald Trump, US Vice President JD Vance and Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy.

"We have formed a version of the agreement that provides mutually beneficial conditions for both countries. This is an agreement in which the United States notes its commitment to promoting long-term peace in Ukraine and recognises the contribution that Ukraine has made to global security by giving up its nuclear arsenal," Economy Minister Yulia Svyrydenko, who signed the deal for Ukraine, said in a post on Facebook.

In this handout photograph taken and released by the US Treasury Department, US Treasury Secretary Scott Bessent and Ukrainian First Deputy Prime Minister Yulia Svyrydenko sign a minerals dealat the Treasury Department in Washington | AFP

Ukraine sees the deal as a way to ensure that its biggest and most consequential ally stays engaged and doesn't freeze military support, which has been key in its 3-year-old fight against Russia's full-scale invasion. The deal covers minerals, including rare earth elements, but also other valuable resources, including oil and natural gas, according to the text released by Ukraine's government. It does not include resources that are already a source of revenue for the Ukrainian state. In other words, any profits under the deal are dependent on the success of new investments.

Officials have also emphasized that the agreement ensures full ownership of the resources remains with Ukraine, and the state will determine what can be extracted and where. The text of the deal lists 55 minerals but says more can be agreed to.

The agreement establishes a reconstruction investment fund, and both the US and Ukraine will have an equal say in its management, according to Svyrydenko. *AP*

Iran slams new US sanctions, calls it economic terror

TEHRAN

IRAN on Thursday condemned as "economic terrorism" a US decision to slap new sanctions on the Islamic republic just days before another round of nuclear talks between the longtime foes.

The United States said on Wednesday it was imposing sanctions on seven companies involved in selling Iranian oil — four based in the United Arab Emirates and one in Turkey. US Secretary of State Marco Rubio said: "So long as Iran attempts to generate oil and petrochemical revenues to fund its destabilising activities, and support its terrorist activities and proxies, the United States will take steps to hold both Iran and all its partners engaged in sanctions evasion accountable." Iran's foreign ministry said on Thursday that the fourth round of nuclear talks with the United States has been postponed, after mediator Oman cited "logistical reasons" for the delay. In a statement, Iran's foreign ministry spokesman Esmaeil Baqaei said the sanctions were part of US efforts "to disrupt friendly and legal relations between developing countries through economic terrorism".

Iran's Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei | AP

He said they were "clear evidence of the contradictory approach of American decision-makers and their lack of goodwill and seriousness in advancing the path of diplomacy." Since returning to office in January, US President Donald Trump has reinstated a campaign of "maximum pressure" on Iran, mirroring his approach during his first term, while also calling for dialogue.

In March, he sent a letter to Iran's supreme leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei, who has the final say in major state policies, urging talks and warning of possible military action if Iran refused. During his first term, Trump withdrew the United States from the 2015 nuclear deal between Iran and world powers and reimposed biting sanctions, prompting the Islamic republic to roll back its commitments. *AFP*

KAMALA HARRIS BREAKS SILENCE, REBUKES TRUMP AGENDA

SAN FRANCISCO

FORMER Vice President Kamala Harris used a high-profile speech to sharply criticize President Donald Trump amid speculation about whether she will mount another presidential campaign or opt to run for California governor.

In her most extensive public remarks since leaving office in January following her defeat to Trump, Harris said Wednesday she's inspired by Americans fighting Trump's agenda despite threats to their freedom or livelihood. "Instead of an administration working to advance America's highest ideals, we are witnessing the wholesale abandonment of those ideals," Harris said a day after Trump reached 100 days in office. Before Wednesday, Harris had barely mentioned Trump by name since she conceded defeat to him in November. In a 15-minute speech, she spoke to the anxiety and confusion that have gripped many of her supporters since Trump took office but discouraged despair. "They are counting on the notion that if they can make some people afraid, it will have a chilling effect on others. But what they have overlooked is that fear is not the only thing that's contagious," Harris said. "Courage is contagious."

Former Vice President Kamala Harris delivers the keynote speech at the Emerge 20th Anniversary Gala | AFP

Trump went after Harris in a campaign-style rally Tuesday marking his 100th day in office.

He sarcastically called her a "great border czar" and a "great candidate" and repeated some of the applause lines he routinely delivered during the campaign. Until Harris replaced Joe Biden atop the Democratic ticket last summer, Trump said, "I knew nothing about her."

White House press secretary Karoline Leavitt said Thursday, "I think I speak for everyone at the White House: We encourage Kamala Harris to continue going out and do speaking engagements." *AP*

Trump picks Rubio as acting NSA, names Waltz UN envoy

WASHINGTON

PRESIDENT Donald Trump said Thursday that he's naming Secretary of State Marco Rubio as acting national security adviser to replace Mike Waltz, whom he is nominating for United Nations ambassador.

Trump announced the moves shortly after news broke that Waltz and his deputy Alex Wong were departing the administration just weeks after it was revealed that Waltz added a journalist to a Signal chat being used to discuss military plans. Trump said Rubio will continue to serve as secretary of state.

"I am pleased to announce that I will be nominating Mike Waltz to be the next United States Ambassador to the United Nations. From his time in uniform on the battlefield, in Congress and, as my National Security Advisor, Mike Waltz has worked hard to put our Nation's Interests first," Trump wrote on social media.

Mike Waltz

"In the interim, Secretary of State Marco Rubio will serve as National Security Advisor, while continuing his strong leadership at the State Department..." Waltz faced intense scrutiny in March after adding journalist Jeffrey Goldberg to a private Signal chat planning a sensitive March 15 operation against Houthi militants in Yemen. *AP*

Israeli strikes kill 29 in Gaza Strip; Netanyahu pledges Hamas defeat

GAZA CITY

GAZA's civil defence agency said Thursday Israeli bombardment killed at least 29 people since midnight in the war-ravaged territory, which has been under Israeli aid blockade for nearly two months.

Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu meanwhile said that while the military's mission was to bring home all the hostages from Gaza, its "supreme goal" was to achieve victory against Hamas.

Israel resumed its campaign in the Gaza Strip on March 18, after a two-month truce collapsed over disagreements between Israel and the Palestinian militant group Hamas whose 2023 attack triggered the conflict. Civil defence official Mohammed al-Mughayyir said Thursday's toll included eight people killed in an air strike on the Abu Sahlul family home in Khan Yunis refugee camp in southern Gaza.

Four people were killed in an air strike east of Shaaf in Gaza City's Al-Tuffah neighbourhood, he told AFP.

At least 17 more were killed in other attacks across the Palestinian territory, including one that hit a tent sheltering displaced people near the central city of Deir el-Balah, the agency said. "We came here and found all these houses destroyed, and children, women and young people all bombed to pieces," said Ahmed Abu Zarqa after a deadly strike in Khan Yunis."This is no way to live. Enough, we're tired, enough!

"We don't know what to do with our lives any more. We'd rather die than live this kind of life." AFP images showed residents digging through rubble in search of bodies, which were carried away on stretchers under blankets. At Nasser Hospital in Khan Yunis, rescuers rushed a screaming wounded child out of an ambulance.

The health ministry in Hamas-run Gaza said on Thursday that at least 2,326 people have been killed since Israel resumed strikes, bringing the overall death toll since the war broke out to 52,418. The Hamas attack on Israel on October 7, 2023 resulted in the deaths of 1,218 people on the Israeli side, mostly civilians, according to an AFP tally based on official figures. *AFP*

HIGHWAY SHUT DOWN

Firefighting planes sent to Israel amid major blaze

JERUSALEM

SEVERAL countries were sending firefighting aircraft to Israel on Thursday as crews battled for a second day to extinguish a wildfire that had shut down a major highway linking Tel Aviv and Jerusalem and sent drivers scrambling from their cars.

The fire broke out around midday in the hills outside Jerusalem on Wednesday, fueled by hot, dry conditions and fanned by strong winds that quickly whipped up the flames burning through pine forests.

Several communities were evacuated as a precaution as the smoke turned the skies over Jerusalem gray. Many of the country's independence day celebrations were cancelled as security forces were diverted towards the fire.

The fire has burned about 5,000 acres (20 square kilometers) and is the most significant fire Israel has seen in the past decade, according to Tal Volvovitch, a spokesperson for Israel's fire and rescue authority.

She said the fire has "miraculously" not damaged any homes.

Israel's fire and rescue authority warned the public to stay away from parks or forests, and to be exceptionally careful while lighting barbecues. Thursday is Israel's Independence Day, which is typically marked with large family cookouts in parks and forests.

At least 12 people were treated in hospitals on Wednesday, mainly due to smoke inhalation, while another 10 people were treated in the field, Magen David Adom Ambulance services said. Twenty firefighters have been lightly injured, Volvovitch said.

Italy, Croatia, Spain, France, Ukraine, and Romania were sending planes to help battle the flames, while several other countries, including North Macedonia and Cyprus, were also sending water-dropping aircrafts. Israeli authorities said 10 firefighting planes were operating on Thursday morning, with another eight aircraft to arrive during the course of the day. *AFP*

EXPRESS READ

10 dead as bus rams vehicles at Philippine toll

Manila: Ten people, including four minors, were killed and 37 injured when a bus ploughed into vehicles at a toll gate near Tarlac City in the northern Philippines, police said. The driver admitted he had briefly fallen asleep at the wheel, triggering a chain-reaction crash. Families were returning from Labour Day holidays when the accident occurred. The driver and conductor are in custody, with charges pending. Deadly road accidents are common in the Philippines due to poor vehicle maintenance and frequent traffic violations.

PUBLIC NOTICE

We are investigating the title of the immovable property morefully described in the '**Schedule**' hereunder and hereinafter referred to as the '**Schedule Property**' owned by Mr. Vivek K Chandy and Mrs. Sarah Chandy, both residing at Bangalore ('**Owners**').

Notice is hereby given to the general public that any person/s other than the Owners, asserting any right, title, charge, lien, claim/s or any interest whatsoever in respect of the Schedule Property, are hereby called upon to submit to the undersigned, their claim/s, if any within a period of 15 (Fifteen) days from the date of publication of this Notice.

SCHEDULE
(Description of the Schedule Property)

All that piece and parcel of the immovable property bearing Municipal Corporation Katha No.19/8 (PID No.92-16-19/8) (earlier forming portion of Municipal No.19/4, Old No.9 and carved out of larger premises known as 'BEAUFORT'), situated at Ist Main, Jayamahal Extension, Bangalore, measuring 7,600 Square Feet (East to West -80 feet and North to South-95 feet) and bounded on the:

East By : Private Property; West By : Common Layout Road; North By : Property bearing No.19/4; and South By : Private Property.

Ms. Brijita Prakash, Partner
J. Sagar Associates,
Advocates & Solicitors,
18th Floor, SKAV 909, No. 9/1,
Residency Road, Richmond Circle,
Bengaluru - 560025, Karnataka, India.
Ph. 080-43503600/080-43503676
Email : brijita.prakash@jsalaw.com
Date : 01.05.2025 Place : Bangalore

PUBLIC NOTICE

It is brought to the notice of the general public that I **Mr.k Chitter Raj** S/o late. Sri.M.Kannan do herby state that I had three sons out of wedlock with my wife Mrs. Vijaya Lakshmi out of the three sons two of my sons 1. Prabhu and 2. Arvind Babu have died.

I had intended to bring my elder son Mr. Karthik.K as a good human being and tried to inculcate good behaviors and value of live but he has not lived up to my expectations, he had been the source of mental agony and sorrow to me and my wife.

He had not been looking after me and my wife in our olden days and he is wholly dependent on us for everything even though he has the health and capacity to earn on his own.

The said son Mr. Karthik. K and his wife had been very cruel to us from the very beginning and they are aiming at our property only and they do not have any love and affection on us, several times we have been assaulted by him and his wife.

My son and his wife had hoisted a false case against us and had put us into untold mental agony, hence, I have decided to disown him he does not have any inheritance right to inherit any immovable or immovable property that is with me.

I hereby declare and state that I hereby disown Mr. Karthik K and he shall not have any inheritance right in the property standing in my name.

Mr. Chitter Raj
No.16, Room no.202, 3rd "A" Cross,
R.A. Road, Ejipura, Viveknagar Post,
Bangalore -560047.

PUBLIC NOTICE

The general public are hereby informed that, my client **MADHUSUDANA. H,** Aged about 36 years, S/o. Mr. Hampanna, Residing at No: 247, 12th Cross, 2nd Main, Panchasheelanagar, Moodalapalya, Bangalore North Taluk, BANGALORE-560072. Intends to purchase the Property from Smt. Varalakshmi B.R. AND Smt. Sadhana Venkatesh residing at No.1518, 9th B Main Road, Srinivasa Nagar, Banashankari, Bengaluru-560 050. In respect of the below mentioned schedule property, Any person, claiming to have any charge, lien, interest, minor claims, right/s whatsoever over the property may lodge the claim to the undersigned with documentary proof on or before 08/05/2025 failing which my client will treat that there are no objections or claims in respect of the schedule property. No claims shall be entertained thereafter.

SCHEDULE PROPERTY

All that piece and parcel of the Residential Property bearing **No: 282,** in the layout formed by Bangalore Development Authority, Bangalore, situated at 2nd Stage, 8th Block, Nagarabhavi, Bangalore, Previously Rajarajeshwari City Municipal Council Katha No:133, Presently within the limits of Bruhat Bangalore Mahanagara Palike Ward No:73, Katha Serial No:282, Bangalore, measuring East to West :7.55 (Seven Point Five Five) meters and North to South: 12.20 (Twelve Point Two Zero) meters in all measuring 92.11 square meters and bounded on East by: Site No:287, West by: Road, North by: Site No: 283, South by: Site No: 281.

Kubendra .Y.J, Advocate
No. 505, 1st Floor, 10th Cross, Vijayanagar,
Bangalore-560 040. Mobile: 9986814775
panchamukiassociates@gmail.com

PUBLIC NOTICE

This is to inform the general public that my client is intended to Purchase the vacant plot bearing Old No.225, situated at AGS Layout, which property is more fully detailed in the schedule from Sri.Shivakumar H.S., S/o.Late. Shadakshraiah.M.G., Aged about 55 years, R/at No.1, 2nd Cross, 9th 'D' Main, Hosahalli, Vijayanagara, Bangaluru-560 040, for valuable consideration.

Any person/s or financial institutions claiming any charge, lien, right, title agreement, interest or share, claim on the schedule property or objection to such sale in favour of my client, should lodge his/her/their/its objection or claim with supporting documents with the undersigned within **07 days** of the issuance of this public notice, failing which, my client will proceed with the purchase of the schedule property on the basis that there are no claims or objections with regard to the purchase of the schedule property and no claim will be entertained thereafter.

SCHEDULE PROPERTY

All that piece and parcel of the residential vacant **site No.225,** eID No.1082020319, situated at **AGS Layout, Arehalli (BDA), Ullal, Bengaluru-560 110,** BBMP Ward No.130, in the layout approved by Bengaluru Development Authority, vide resolution No.192/2004, dated 26-06-2004, formed by the Accountant General's Office Co-Operative Society Limited at Ullal Village, Yershwanthpura Hobli, Bengaluru North Taluk, measuring East to West **80 Ft** and North to South **50 Ft.,** in all ad measuring **4000 Sq.Ft.,** and bounded on:

East by : Site No.224, West by : Site No.226, North by : Road, South by : Site No.219

H.T.NATARAJ. B.Com,LLB.
Advocate,
HTN LAW ASSOCIATES
No. 113, 1st Floor, 2nd Main Road,
Seshadhripuram, Bangalore-560 020.
(Phone No.9845012696)

ARMY COLLEGE OF DENTAL SCIENCES, SECUNDERABAD

TENDER NOTICE

1. Sealed and separate Tenders are invited by 30 May 2025 upto 12.00Hrs for construction of PG block for Army College of Dental Sciences, Secunderabad, India.
2. College premises may be seen by interested agencies / firms between 09.30 AM to 03.30 PM on any working day.
3. The detailed terms and conditions may be obtained on cash payment of Rs. 11,800/- (Non Refundable)/ download from College website (http://acds.edu.in) and Cost of Tender documents of Rs. 11,800/- be deposited in the form of Demand draft (In favour of ACDS CAPITAL FUND), Secunderabad, including GST) alongwith documents for Technical Bid.

Contact Mobile: 9281422911

REGISTRAR
ACDS

RAIL COACH FACTORY KAPURTHALA

On-line Tenders are invited by PCMM, RCF on behalf of President of India for following items:-

Sr. No.	Tender No. & Due Date	Description		Quantity	EMD (Rs.)
1.	12241480A 30.05.2025	1. SUPPLY OF ONE COACH SET OF ALUMINIUM EXTRUSION/MOULDING FOR LHB SCN AMRIT BHARAT COACHES.		126 Set	1176400
		2. SUPPLY OF ONE COACH SET OF ALUMINIUM EXTRUSIONS/ MOULDINGS FOR LHB SLR AMRIT BHARAT COACHES.ALUMINIUM EXTRUSIONS/MOULDINGS MAY BE SUPPLIED IN 2M LENGTH MINIMUM AND HIGHER LENGTHS ALSO ACCEPTABLE (NOTE- ITEM WHERE SPECIFIED LENGTH IS LESSER THAN 2M TO BE SUPPLIED AS PER ITEM DESCRIPTION)		28 Set	
		3. SUPPLY OF ONE COACH SET OF ALUMINIUM EXTRUSIONS/ MOULDINGS FOR LHB GS AMRIT BHARAT COACHES.		171 Set	
2.	05251194 04.06.2025	SET OF SIDE WALL ASSLY AND ROOF COMPLETE (2 ITEMS)	PL No	Quantity	1946530
			33551868	55 Set	
			33551844	33 Set	
3.	05251200 02.06.2025	SET OF SIDE WALL COMPLETE ROOF COMPLETE (3 ITEMS)	PL No	Quantity	5000000
			33552204	43 Set	
			33552149	166 Set.	
			33552198	254 Nos.	
4.	17251131 17.06.2025	SUPPLY,INSTALLATION AND COMMISSIONING & MAINTENANCE OF AUTOMATIC FIRE DETECTION CUM SUPPRESSION SYSTEM(HIGH PRESSURE WATER MIST SYSTEM) FOR LHB POWER CAR AND PANTRY CAR COACHES.		188 Set	14,62,680
5.	17251171 20.06.2025	STAINLESS STEEL STEP COMPLETE		11962 NOS	1182740
6.	17251145 02.06.2025	AIR INLET DUCT FOR LHB AC3T.		277 Nos	15,25,630
		AIR INLET DUCT FOR LHB AC2T.		93 Nos	
		AIR INLET DUCT COMPLETE FOR LHB AC CHAIR CAR.		122 Nos	
7.	17251162 28.05.2025	SUPPLY,INSTALLATION,TESTING AND COMMISSIONING OF AUTOMATIC SMOKE/FIRE DETECTION WITH ALARM SYSTEM ON RETRO FITMENT BASIS IN EXISTING 3 PHASE **EMU** RAKES OVER INDIAN RAILWAYS.		73 Set	20,00,000
		SUPPLY,INSTALLATION,TESTING AND COMMISSIONING OF AUTOMATIC SMOKE/FIRE DETECTION WITH ALARM SYSTEM ON RETRO FITMENT BASIS IN EXISTING 3 PHASE **MEMU** RAKES OVER INDIAN RAILWAYS.		73 Set	
		SUPPLY,INSTALLATION,TESTING AND COMMISSIONING OF AUTOMATIC SMOKE/FIRE DETECTION WITH ALARM SYSTEM ON RETRO FITMENT BASIS IN EXISTING 3 PHASE **MEMU** RAKES OVER INDIAN RAILWAYS.		18 Set	
		SUPPLY,INSTALLATION,TESTING AND COMMISSIONING OF AUTOMATIC SMOKE/FIRE DETECTION WITH ALARM SYSTEM ON RETRO FITMENT BASIS IN EXISTING 3 PHASE **EMU** RAKES OVER INDIAN RAILWAYS.		06 Set	
8.	17251160 13.06.2025	FLOOR END PROFILE, L=2000MM		5365 Nos	1,64,220
9.	12251057 03.06.2025	HONEYCOMB PARTITION FRAME SET WITH AL FR HPL SHEET FOR LHB SCN COACH		201 SET	8,24,910
10.	05251040A 28.05.2025	UNDER FRAME COMPLETE FOR VANDE BHARAT NDTC COACHES		14	20,00,000
		UNDER FRAME COMPLETE FOR VANDE BHARAT DTC COACHES		28	
		UNDER FRAME COMPLETE FOR VANDE BHARAT NDTC COACHES		28	
		UNDER FRAME COMPLETE FOR VANDE BHARAT MC COACHES		140	
		UNDER FRAME COMPLETE FOR VANDE, BHARAT TC COACHES		70	
11.	17251130 10.06.2025	Endwall Door Complete		4138 Nos	20,00,000
12.	04251020 04.06.2025	Austenitic Steel	1275138 kg +34089 kg	+42155 kg +711724 kg	50 Lacs
13.	01251090 02.06.2025	Air Spring Control Equipment		3199 Set	2000000
14.	04241052D 26.05.2025	STEEL COIL 3X1250MM		20000kgs	68000
		STEEL COIL 4X1250MM		20000kgs	
15.	04251027 27.05.2025	SEAMLESS STAINLESS STEEL PIPE SIZE 25 MM (1") NBX3800 MM		6146 Nos	382340
16.	01251103 27.05.2025	1. Manufacture and Supply of Fully Assembled Bogie for VB Train Set DTC Coaches (Driving END)		16 Numbers	2000000
		2. Manufacture and Supply of Fully Assembled Bogie for VB Train Set DTC Coaches. (Rear END)		16 Numbers	
		3. Manufacture and Supply of Fully Assembled Bogie for VB Train Set MC Coaches		48 Numbers	
		4. Manufacture and Supply of Fully Assembled Bogie for VB Train Set TC Coaches		32 Numbers	

Corrigendum

1. Tender No. 17231508, Due date 09.05.2025 **Revised Description/ Drawings:** Description and Drawing is modified for P.L.No 33618537 & 33618549.

1. For details and making On-line Bids, visit Website **http://ireps.gov.in.** Drawings/specifications, wherever required can be downloaded from RCF Website **http://www.rcf.indianrailways.gov.in** Class III-B digital signature certificate required for on-line bidding, can be obtained from licensed certifying agencies listed at **http://www.cce.gov.in 2.** Tenders will close at 14.25 hrs. on due date and tender will be opened at 14.30 HRS. S.No 1 to 11 Tenders will opened at RCF Kapurthala, (Punjab) and S.No. 12 to 16 Tender will opened at RCF Tilak Bridge New Delhi; **3.** For queries, contact IREPS Helpdesk at 011-24102855, 011-24105180 or RCF helpdesk at 011-01123370897

PCMM

NO. 014-S/2024-25 Dated: 01.05.2025

81.57 MT coal India produced in April 2025, an increase from 78.71 MT produced during the same period in the previous year

April GST revenue all-time high at ₹2.4 L cr

Another encouraging trend is the rising number of GST registrants, with over 2.5 million new taxpayers added in FY25

DIPAK MONDAL @ New Delhi

DESPITE disruptions in economic activities due to uncertainty over Donald Trump's tariff policies, GST collections in April saw strong growth. Gross GST revenues hit an all-time high of ₹2.36 lakh crore in April 2025, 12.6% higher than the collection of ₹2.10 lakh crore in April 2024. The gross revenues from domestic transactions rose by 10.7% to ₹1.89 lakh crore, revenues from imports rose by 21% to ₹46,900 crore.

After refunds, it grew at 48% to ₹27,341 crore. Net GST collection during April reached ₹2.09 lakh crore, up 9.1% compared with the same month previous year. A double-digit growth in gross GST collections in April 2025 shows improved economic activities during the month, given single-digit growth in GST revenue in FY25, when gross GST revenue rose by average 9.5%. Net revenues averaged a growth of 8.6% in FY25.

Finance minister Nirmala Sitharaman said the figures showcase resilience of the Indian economy and effectiveness of cooperative federalism. "Deepest gratitude to the taxpayers whose contributions and faith in the GST architecture drive the nation's progress. Their contributions reflect a shared commitment to building a Viksit Bharat."

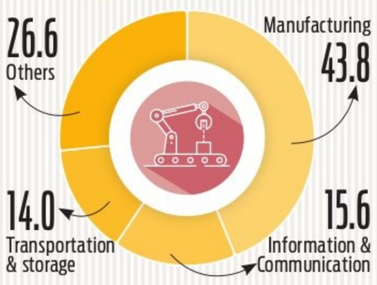
As per MS Mani, Partner, Deloitte India, the net GST collections crossing ₹2 lakh crore in the first month of FY26 indicates a strong economic performance in the last month of the previous fiscal as these relate to transactions in goods and services in March 2025.

As per experts, a 21% growth through import collections could be led by exports growth ahead of the deadline for Trump's reciprocal tariff. GST is a big source of revenue for both the Centre and the states with the consumption tax accounting for about 28% of the Centre's tax revenue in FY25. This year, the Centre hopes to collect ₹11.8 lakh crore from GST, 11.3% higher YoY. In terms of state-wise collections, most states and UTs reported positive growth, with only a handful seeing single-digit rise. Among bigger states, Haryana (16%), Bihar (15%), Gujarat (13%) and Tamil Nadu (13%) led the growth in GST revenue. Maharashtra remains the top contributor, collecting ₹41,465 crore (11% growth), followed by Karnataka (₹17,815 cr, 12%) and Tamil Nadu (₹13,831 cr, 13%). Uttar Pradesh (₹13,609 cr, 11%) and Gujarat (₹14,705 cr, 12%) maintained strong momentum.

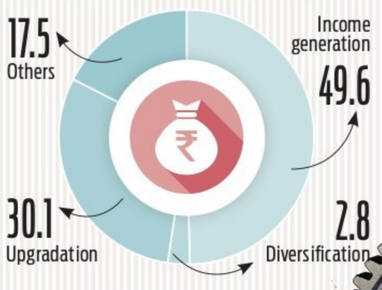
PRIVATE CAPEX A SNAPSHOT

The first of its kind survey conducted by the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation shows private sector capital expenditure may fall 26% in FY26

PERCENTAGE DISTRIBUTION OF INTENDED CAPITAL EXPENDITURE IN 2024-25 BY MAIN ACTIVITY (figures in %)



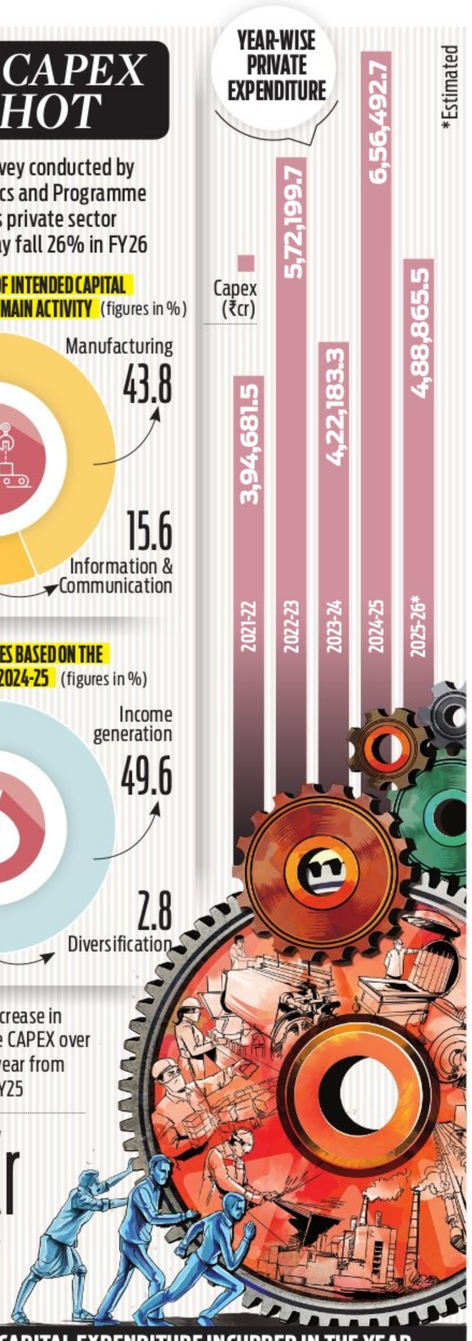
DISTRIBUTION OF ENTERPRISES BASED ON THE PURPOSE OF THEIR CAPEX IN 2024-25 (figures in %)



66% Overall increase in aggregate CAPEX over the four-year from FY22 to FY25

₹172.2 Cr the estimated provisional capital expenditure per enterprise for purchasing new assets in 2024–25

YEAR-WISE PRIVATE EXPENDITURE *Estimated



53.1% OF TOTAL CAPITAL EXPENDITURE INCURRED IN THE YEAR 2024-25 WAS UTILIZED FOR PURCHASING MACHINERY & EQUIPMENT

Source: Mospi

Zoho shelves chipmaking venture

ENS ECONOMIC BUREAU @ Bengaluru

HOMEGROWN SaaS unicorn Zoho has shelved its plan to build a $700 million semiconductor fabrication plant.

On its semiconductor fab investment plan, Sridhar Vembu, chief scientist at Zoho said, "Since this business is so capital intensive it requires government backing, we wanted to be absolutely sure of the technology path before we take taxpayer money. We did not have that confidence in the tech so our board decided to shelve this idea for the time being, until we find a better tech approach."

Last year in March, the company's founder Sridhar Vembu had announced on X his plans

for a semiconductor design project in Tenkasi, Tamil Nadu. The company's proposal had included manufacturing compound semiconductors that have specialised commercial applications.

In May last year TNIE reported that Zoho had been seeking incentives from the government and that the proposal was being reviewed by a panel. The IT ministry had asked the firm to provide more clarity on the plan. Later in September, in an interaction with TNIE he had said that the company was not directly involved in the semiconductor venture and it was only an investor in Silectric Semiconductor Manufacturing, which was awaiting clearance from the government. "Zoho has no expertise in the area (semiconductor). We know software, technology... We don't know about semiconductors, that's why we are only an investor and the application is still pending," he had said. Vembu had said once Silectric receives clearance it would build semiconductors for power electronics.

M&M in 2nd spot in PV space; HMIL, Tata see fall in sales

ARSHAD KHAN @ New Delhi

MAHINDRA & Mahindra (M&M) has strengthened its position as India's second-largest passenger vehicle (PV) manufacturer, as rivals Hyundai Motor India (HMIL) and Tata Motors reported a decline in monthly wholesales in April 2025. The automaker has extended its lead over Tata Motors to more than 7,000 units, while the gap with Hyundai now stands at nearly 8,000 units.

M&M sold 52,330 vehicles (all utility vehicles) in the domestic market in April 2025, a growth of 28% year-on-year (YoY) and its total sales, including exports, stood at 54,860 vehicles. In comparison, Tata Motors reported a 6% fall in PV sales to 45,199 units in April 2025 compared to 47,883 units in April 2024. HMIL domestic shipments plummeted nearly 9% to 44,374 units in April 2025.

"Building on the strong momentum of last year's performance, we began the year on a strong note in April by achieving SUV sales of 52,330 units, a 28% growth and total vehicle sales of 84170 units, a 19% growth over same month last year. These numbers indicate the strength of our portfolio and customer offerings," said Veejay Nakra, President, automotive division, M&M.

M&M's growth is fuelled by strong demand for its SUVs. While competitors struggle to maintain growth, most of M&M products continue to enjoy robust demand. The maker of popular models like Thar Roxx and Scorpio N has consistently reported double-digit monthly sales growth over the past year, even as overall PV industry grew by 4% last fiscal. In FY25, M&M's domestic SUV sales grew 20%, reaching 551,487 units. Hyundai has had fewer recent launches, relying heavily on its best-selling model Creta. The automaker's other popular SUVs — Venue and Exter — continue to face stiff competition in their segments. Maruti Suzuki remains undisputed leader in the domestic PV market.

M&M's growth fuelled by demand for SUVs

M&M's growth is fuelled by strong demand for its SUVs. While competitors struggle to maintain growth, most of M&M products continue to enjoy robust demand. The maker of popular models like Thar Roxx and Scorpio N has consistently reported double-digit monthly sales growth over the past year

Electronics mfg in India gets shot in the arm amid US tariff talks

RAKESH KUMAR @ New Delhi

WITH the Trump administration's announcement of reciprocal tariffs in April 2025 targeting multiple countries, India appears to have an edge over others, particularly in the electronics sector.

This advantage stems from relatively lower tariffs imposed on Indian goods, especially compared to other major manufacturing hubs like China and Vietnam. For this reason, within a month of the announcement, global technology giants such as Apple, Google, and Samsung have expressed strong interest in expanding or shifting their manufacturing operations to India.

For instance, Apple has officially announced that all iPhones sold in the US will be imported from India, meaning the US market will rely solely on India-made iPhones for domestic consumption. India-made iPhones account for only 8.5% of the phones sold in the US currently, with China accounting for three-fourths of the sales. iPhone sales in the US were 75.9 million units in 2024, with India-made phones accounting for only 3.1 million units in March 2025.

Alphabet Inc, the parent company of Google, is also planning to relocate a portion of its smartphone production from Vietnam to India. Currently, Google, in partnership with contract manufacturer Dixon Technologies, produces about 43,000 to 45,000 Pixel devices for the Indian market, a relatively modest number. Now, the company is looking to scale up production and begin exporting India-made Pixel phones. South Korean electronics major Samsung is also considering relocating parts of its smartphone and electronics production to India.

HP India is set to begin local production of laptops, desktop PCs, and all-in-one systems in May, in partnership with Dixon. Taiwanese tech firm Asus is also scaling up its India operations, aiming to transform the country into a major global export hub. Lenovo has announced plans to manufacture all its PC models for the Indian market locally within the next three years. It intends to produce AI GPU servers in Pondicherry, bolstering its domestic presence. Murata Manufacturing Co, a key supplier of components for Apple, is considering shifting some of its production to India as part of a global supply chain realignment.

"All the stars are aligned for India to be the alternative to China. India not only offers government support and lower costs, but also has English-speaking software engineers and a large consumer base," said Tarun Pathak, research director at Counterpoint. "Going forward, competitive dynamics will be shaped by OEMs' ability to diversify their supply chains and manufacturing bases."

The US has imposed a 26% reciprocal tariff on imports, while Chinese goods face a much higher 145%, and Vietnamese products are subject to 46%. Although a 90-day pause on reciprocal tariffs was announced on April 9, a 10% baseline tariff remains in effect on China.

Air India expects $600 mn hit from Pak airspace ban, seeks subsidy for loss

ENS ECONOMIC BUREAU @ New Delhi

AIR INDIA is expecting to face around $600 million in additional costs if a ban from Pakistan's airspace lasts for a year. The Tata Group run has written to the Indian government, seeking compensation for the hit.

According to Reuters, Air India on April 27 wrote a letter to the civil aviation ministry in which it asked the Indian government for a subsidy model proportionate to the economic hit and estimated a loss of over ₹5,000 crore ($591 mn) for each year the ban lasts.

"Subsidy for affected international flights is a good, verifiable and fair option ... the subsidy can be removed when the situation improves," the letter said. "The impact on Air India is maximum due to airspace closure, due to additional fuel burn... additional crew." Queries regarding the letter sent by TNIE to Air India remained unanswered till the time of print.

Indian airlines will be hit by higher fuel costs, longer journey times and a rise in few other operational expenses after Pakistan shut its airspace to the country's carriers amid growing tension with India following a deadly attack on tourists in Kashmir last week. According to industry experts, Pakistan's action will affect Indian carriers' flights, primarily taken from northern cities to destinations such as Central Asia, West Asia, Europe, the United Kingdom and North America.

Subsidy for affected overseas flights is a good, verifiable and fair option ... the subsidy can be removed when the situation improves

Air India letter to civil aviation ministry

Airlines' cost to rise

Indian airlines will be hit by higher fuel costs, longer journey times and a rise in a few other operational expenses after Pakistan shut its airspace for Indian carriers amid growing tension following the attack

Banks stare at 10-20 bps dip in NIM, ROA as loan rates decline

ENS ECONOMIC BUREAU @ Mumbai

THE falling interest rate regime has given banks a double-whammy in terms of net interest margin and return on assets, both of which are set to take a hit of 10-20 bps each this fiscal.

The interest rates on loans are likely to come down faster than those on deposits. Return on assets (RoA) of banks is set to fall 10-20 bps to 1.1-1.2% this fiscal from an over-two-decade peak of 1.3% in fiscals 2024 and 2025. Not just that, this will be driven by a similar contraction in their net interest margins (NIMs) to 2.8-2.9% this fiscal, Crisil Ratings said in a note.

The agency also expects another 50 bps cut in the repo rate this fiscal, taking the total rate cuts to 100 bps --- from 6.5% to 5.5%. Apart from NIMs, credit costs also have a bearing on banks' earnings. The agency said while a secular decline in

credit costs has supported profitability in the past a few years, they have bottomed out now. With other income and operating expenses, which are the other major components of earnings, are seen heading to flat growth, NIM compression will translate to a moderation in RoA after accounting for taxes.

Nevertheless, overall profitability will remain above the 20-year sectoral average of 0.8%, which was 0.6% in the past decade. As per Subha Sri Narayanan, director at Crisil, of the loan assets, 45% are linked to an external benchmark (EBLR), the repo. These are repriced after rate cuts. On the other hand, any cut in term deposit rates (which constitute as much as 60-65% of system wide deposits) will apply to incremental deposits and renewals, resulting in a slower transmission/downward repricing of liabilities. Data shows only 21% of term deposits are maturing in a year, which means the rest will be due for repricing only after this fiscal.

RESULTS

COGNIZANT Q1 PROFIT UP 21%; TO HIRE 20K FRESHERS

ENS ECONOMIC BUREAU @ Bengaluru

IT services firm Cognizant on Thursday reported a 21% increase in its net income for the quarter ended March 2025 at $633 million as against $546 million in the year-ago period. Cognizant, which follows calendar year, posted $5.1 billion revenues in the March quarter, a 7.5% YoY rise or 8.2% in constant currency.

Operating margin stood at 16.7%, and its trailing 12-month bookings stood at $26.7 billion. It has kept its full-year (2025) guidance on revenue growth unchanged at 3.5% to 6%. The Nasdaq-listed IT company will onboard 20,000 freshers this year. "We started the year on a strong note, delivering revenue and adjusted operating margin ahead of our expectations. The breadth and depth of our portfolio, combined with our deep industry and domain expertise, position us well as a strategic partner for clients in an increasingly complex macroeconomic environment," said Ravi Kumar S, CEO. "Today, productivity, cost reduction and resiliency are especially important, and we believe our differentiated AI and platform capabilities are helping clients navigate the near-term uncertainty."

ZOMATO Q4 NET PROFIT DECLINES 78% TO ₹39 CR

ENS ECONOMIC BUREAU @ Bengaluru

ETERNAL (formerly Zomato) on Thursday reported a 78% fall in its consolidated net profit for the quarter ended March 2025 at ₹39 crore compared to ₹175 crore in the year-ago period. Revenue from operations stood at ₹5,833 crore, a 64% rise YoY as against ₹3,562 crore in the same quarter last year.

Adjusted EBITDA declined 15% YoY to ₹165 crore due to the impact of accelerated store expansion in quick commerce. Blinkit added 294 net new stores, and is on track to get to 2,000 stores by December 2025.

In its letter to shareholders, Deepinder Goyal, founder & CEO, Eternal, said they are shutting down Zomato Quick and Everyday as they are not seeing the path to profitability. "The current restaurant density & kitchen infrastructure is not set up for delivering orders in 10 minutes which leads to inconsistent customer experience."

AEL PROFIT RISES 7-FOLD; ADANI PORTS' PAT UP 48%

ENS ECONOMIC BUREAU @ New Delhi

ADANI Group flagship company - Adani Enterprises (AEL)- on Thursday reported an over seven-fold rise in its consolidated net profit for Q4FY25), owing to an exceptional item gain. AEL's net profit was recorded at ₹3,844.91 crore in the quarter, up from ₹450.58 crore a year ago quarter.

The exceptional item gain was recorded at ₹3,945.73 crore from its sale of a 13.5% stake in Adani Wilmar (AWL). Total income breached the ₹1 lakh crore mark for the first time in a financial year. It came at ₹1,00,365 crore in FY25, up 2.1% YoY. AEL said it plans to raise up to ₹15,000 crore via private placement, qualified institutional placement, preferential issue, or any other method allowed under applicable laws. Revenue from operations during the March quarter came down 7.5% at ₹26,965.86 crore.

Adani Ports & Special Economic Zone (APSEZ) reported a 48% rise in consolidated net profit in Q4FY25 to ₹3,014 crore, compared to ₹2,040 crore in the same quarter last year. This growth was backed by increased income and revenue.

Kishore Jena joins line-up for Neeraj Chopra Classic

Asian Games silver medallist Kishore Jena has joined the lineup for the Neeraj Chopra Classic, the organisers said on Thursday, taking the number of total participants to 12 with five of them being Indian. The Neeraj Chopra Classic will be held at the Sree Kanteerava Stadium in Bengaluru on May 24.

Going by the latest annual report of Ministry of Youth Affairs & Sports, 186 returned positive in the April 2023-January 2024 period

Dope of shame for India yet again

INDRANEEL DAS @ Chennai

WHEN it comes to doping, India always seems to be in front. The latest figures could be the highest positive doping cases after the 225 cases in 2019. What is even more intriguing is that the positive cases are in less than a year. According to the latest Annual Report of Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports published on their website, 186 returned Adverse Analytical Findings (AAF) in the April 2023-January 2024 (about 10 months) period. The number of samples increased to 4891, including 544 blood samples. Going by percentage, this is a high 3.80.

In 2022, India had topped the world in the percentage of doping positives against the number of samples tested. The figures were based on the World Anti-Doping Agency (WADA) testing figures published last year in April. According to the WADA report, NADA found 125 positives, about 3.2 per cent of the total number of samples collected and was highest among countries that had tested more than 2000 samples. As far as testing samples is concerned, 4891 could be the highest in the country.

"During the period of April 2023 – January 2024, a total of 4891 dope samples including 544 blood samples were collected during sports championship and training camps," said the report. At 43, athletics has seen a spurt of positive cases including Asian Games and championship medallists. Weightlifting had 33 AAFs, followed by powerlifting with 27 positive cases. Wrestling (10) and boxing (9) were next. Pencak-Silat is a sport that has returned 2 positive cases. In all, there were positive cases in 24 sporting disciplines.

Cricket figures among the top sport to have opted for Therapeutic Use Exemption (TUE) with seven cricketers opting for this provision. The report said, "TUE may give that athlete the authorization to use that substance or method while competing without invoking an anti-doping rule violation (ADRV)." Surprisingly, there have been only two TUE requests in athletics. Kabaddi saw four TUE requests but they were all granted.

The report said that Anti-Doping Disciplinary Panel (ADDP) had heard 92 Anti-Doping Rule Violation cases while the Anti Doping Appeal Panel (ADAP) heard 35 cases. The ADDP issued 56 orders while ADAP 21. The report also pointed out that the National Dope Testing Laboratory (NDTL) has increased the capacity from 4000 to 6000.

Gujarat, UP get most Khelo funding

INDRANEEL DAS @ Chennai

GUJARAT and Uttar Pradesh have been the biggest beneficiaries of the sports ministry's Khelo India Creation and Upgradation of Sports Infrastructure scheme. As per the Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports Annual Report 2023-24 that was published recently on the ministry's website, Gujarat received ₹606.37 crore for five projects. Uttar Pradesh got ₹500.96 cr for 30 projects.

Himachal Pradesh also got a boost with a fund of ₹193.21 cr for nine projects. Close behind is Arunachal Pradesh with a funding of ₹180.68 cr for 21 projects. Going by the Khelo India website, most of the 21 projects relate to multi-purpose halls in most of the districts in Arunachal. While in Himachal, the fund will be utilized to build new synthetic athletic tracks and multi-purpose halls. The two sports ministers before the current one were from Arunachal and Himachal.

On the other hand, a sporting powerhouse like Tamil Nadu have got a grant of only ₹29.50 cr and is less than what Sikkim have received – ₹33.34 cr. Kerala, another sporting state, received ₹65.58cr and the majority of the amount — ₹34.80 cr — went to Sports Authority of India regional centre in Trivandrum for building a 300-bed hostel. Karnataka received ₹134.5 cr. According to the report, Gujarat's Construction of Sports Complex at Naranpura, Ahmedabad, is one of the two special infrastructure projects initiated under this component of Khelo India Scheme. And the total financial outlay of the project is ₹583.99 cr. Ahmedabad has already been projected as the potential host for the Commonwealth Games in 2030. The other special project, according to the report, is the "Development and Modernization Of Sigra Stadium, Varanasi" at a project outlay of ₹315.48 cr.

Full story: newindianexpress.com

BUSINESS END IS HERE

Gujarat will seek to refocus after a hiding last time out while Hyderabad are pretty much in last chance saloon. A look...

EYES ON SHAMI AND CUMMINS

The batting unit have misfired but the pace duo of Mohammed Shami and Pat Cummins have been found wanting. In theory, they complement each other with their varied skillsets but they have picked up just 15 wickets combined and have been expensive.

GUJARAT'S HOME FORM ABALM FROM RECENT BLIP

Coming fresh off a beating from a 14 year old Vaibhav Suryavanshi, Titans' balm will be their home form. They have an established home template and it's worked for them so far. Aim for par and allow their bowlers to get into the game.

WILL KISHORE BOWL MORE SPELLS?

Shubman Gill will be delighted to see Rashid Khan coming back to his best. However, question marks over the role of Sai Kishore has crept up, considering how dangerous he has become. His role will closely be observed.

3 *3 No of wins for Gujarat in Ahmedabad out of four games*

GT vs SRH, Ahmedabad
Live on Star Sports and JioHotstar, 7.30 PM

Skipper Shreyas' transformation

GOMESH S @ Chennai

AT some point during the 2024 IPL final pre-game press conference in Chennai, the then Kolkata Knight Riders captain Shreyas Iyer candidly remarked on how much credit he gets — or doesn't — in the public eye has depended on the media. This was in regards to how the attention had been on Gautam Gambhir, the team's mentor at the time. "See, the hype is definitely created by you guys, I mean where I stand is definitely upon you guys," he had said, before elaborating on how critical Gambhir's tactical knowledge had been for the team.

He did not make it sound like a grievance. That was Iyer speaking his mind with little hesitation. He has always been that guy. Whether it was about the time he was removed from central contract or the time when he almost did not play the first ODI against England in Nagpur in the lead up to the Champions Trophy or the number of occasions before, after and in between these two moments... if you asked a straight question, you would get a clear, to the point answer without hesitation (there was also a time when he went off against a journalist after playing a match-winning knock against Sri Lanka at the 2023 World Cup).

His body language, the way he answers or the way he holds himself on the field, it's the way he has always been. That is just who he is as a person. Iyer has always been that guy; when he took apart R Ashwin as a 23-year-old in a 2017-18 Ranji match or when he was named Delhi Daredevils captain after Gambhir stepped down in 2018 or when he led Delhi Capitals to final in 2020 before going on to win the IPL title with KKR last year. That confidence has never wavered. This year, however, there is something more to him than what the world has seen in the past decade. As the captain of Punjab Kings, Iyer has smashed 360 runs in ten innings at 180.9 strike rate — the highest among Indian batters in the top-ten run-getters this season. He has led the team to six wins which has put them in second place after the game in Chennai. He has been sensational against pacers and short-balls, something that used to be a perceived weakness. He has also been on point with on-field tactics without much noise around it.

> **He (Shreyas) wants to bring success to this team & franchise. The way he's playing, it doesn't look like he's going to let anything get in way of that.**
>
> Ricky Ponting, Coach

In some ways, from the outside, one could sense that Iyer wants to do everything there is to make sure he gets due recognition as a batter, captain and leader. PBKS head coach Ricky Ponting, who has worked with Iyer in DC previously, is as much in awe of his transformation as the outside world. "Shreyas started this tournament in a form that I've never seen him in before," Ponting explained.

"He and I are really close off the field. We talk a lot about the game, we talk a lot about his batting, we talk a lot about the tactics of the game, but I actually think he's taken his game to a new level. I think he understands the game and game situations probably better than ever before, and I think that was showcased there tonight (Wednesday against Chennai), to be able to play the way that he did. I love working with him, he talks with all the players, all the players love working with him," he added.

When Ponting uses the phrase ' like never before', he was not exaggerating. For someone whose overall IPL SR against pace is 131.88, this year 63 per cent of Iyer's runs (227) have come against pacers at a SR 194.01. The Australian, who was a master against short-pitched deliveries himself, was beaming with pride when he said he had nothing to do with the technical changes Iyer has made all by himself to improve. Ponting attributes his success to the hunger of success Iyer has and the experience he has gained over the years as one of the most successful IPL captains of the last decade. "If you look him in the eye, you can tell that he's really hungry for success. He wants to bring success to this team and this franchise. The way that he's playing, he doesn't look like he's going to let anything get in the way of that. So that's a great attitude for a leader to have, because that rubs off on everybody else around him," Ponting said.

Indeed, and if everything everything goes to plan, Iyer could just become the first captain to lead three different IPL franchises into play-offs or even the final. It speaks volumes for two reasons. One, his malleability to work with different personnel around him. And two, different batches of owners have seen something in him to give him the keys to the captaincy.

By the looks of it, Iyer will do everything in his power to make it happen and this time, the recognition that's due will come his way.

MI openers Rohit Sharma (L) & Ryan Rickelton in action on Thursday | AP

Six in a row! Mumbai keep up winning streak

AGENCIES @ Jaipur

OPENERS Rohit Sharma and Ryan Rickelton struck sublime half-centuries, powering Mumbai Indians to their sixth consecutive win of the season as the Hardik Pandya-led side beat Rajasthan Royals here on Thursday.

Expecting heavy dew, Royals put the opposition in but Rohit (53 off 36 balls) and Rickelton (61 off 38) put the home team under pressure with a sizzling display of clean hitting. In their 116-run stand, Rickelton targeted the quick bowlers while Rohit went after spinners especially Maheesh Theekshana, who was introduced as early as third over. Suryakumar Yadav (48 not out off 23) and skipper Hardik Pandya (48 not out off 23) capitalised on the openers' good work to take the team past 200. Jofra Archer bowled a tight first over but the Mumbai openers collected 18 runs off his second. Notwithstanding the express pace of Archer, Rohit made room to cut the England pacer for a four before Rickleton pulled him for a six over mid-wicket. Mumbai cruised to 58 for no loss in the powerplay after Rohit dispatched Maheesh Theekshana for back-to-back fours. Left-arm spinner Kumar Kartikeya offered a half tracker to Rickelton and he duly dismissed it off his presence for a six and a well-deserved half-century. In reponse, RR lost the plot early in the powerplay and soon they were 47/5. From thereon, they never recovered. With this result, RR became the second team to be eliminated.

Brief scores: MI 217/2 in 20 ovs (Rickelton 61, Rohit 53, Suryakumar 48 n.o, Hardik 48 n.o) **bt** RR 117 all out in 16.1 ovs (Boult 3/28, Bumrah 2/13, Karn 3/19).

EXPRESS READ

Objections against recently-formed IPA

NEW DELHI: Just after finding its space in India right now, pickleball is embroiled in an administrative turf war after the Sports Ministry granted national federation status to the recently-formed Indian Pickleball Association (IPA), prompting the much older All India Pickleball Association (AIPA) to raise objections and threaten legal action.

Maxwell fractures finger, may miss rest of IPL

CHENNAI: Punjab Kings' Australian all-rounder Glenn Maxwell is "likely" out of the Indian Premier League's remaining matches after fracturing his finger. Maxwell suffered the injury before PBKS' rained out previous game against Kolkata Knight Riders in which he was dismissed for 7 continuing an underwhelming season.

Shuttlers Satwik and Chirag awarded Khel Ratna

NEW DELHI: Sports Minister Mansukh Mandaviya presented the Major Dhyan Chand Khel Ratna award to Chirag Shetty and Satwiksairaj Rankireddy here on Friday. Chirag and Satwik were named for the honour last year but could not attend the glittering ceremony at the Rashtrapati Bhawan owing to their playing commitments.

U-17 boxers to the fore, India 2nd in Asian meet

AMMAN: India's U-17 contingent secured four more gold medals on the final day, as India finished second at the Asian U-15 & U-17 Boxing Championships here. The U-17 team captured four gold, three silver, and 11 bronze medals, contributing to India's overall tally of 43 medals. With 15 gold, six silver, and 22 bronze, India finished just one gold shy of table-toppers Kazakhstan.

Gauff dismantles Swiatek to book Madrid Open final berth

AGENCIES @ Madrid

REIGNING Madrid Open champion Iga Swiatek crashed out in a straight sets semifinal defeat against Coco Gauff on Thursday, with the American triumphing 6-1, 6-1.

The Polish World No 2 and five-time Grand Slam winner could not force a single break point and saved two of seven she faced as she fell in one hour six minutes.

Ruud in semis

Casper Ruud reached the semi-finals with a 6-3, 7-5 straight sets triumph over Daniil Medvedev. The Norwegian ousted Taylor Fritz to reach the quarterfinals and secured his first win against the Russian in their fourth meeting.

Consolation victory for Indian shuttlers

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE

LED by fresh faces Anupama Upadhyaya, Sathish Karunakaran in the singles department, India eked out a consolation victory over England in their final match of the ongoing BWF Sudirman Cup Finals in Xiamen, China, on Thursday.

The singles duo, replacing regulars like PV Sindhu and HS Prannoy in the inconsequential match, won their respective singles ties to lay the platform for the Indian team. Anupama took 41 minutes to beat Miu Lin Ngan 21-12, 21-16 while Sathish was made to come from behind to earn his win. Sathish beat Harry Huang 18-21, 22-20, 21-13.

Tanisha Crastro, one of the shining lights in India's dismal campaign, then sealed India's win while partnering Shruti Mishra. The duo recorded their second victory (while playing together) of the campaign against Lizzie Tolman and Estelle Van Leeuwen. India lost the remaining two ties. Hariharan Amsakarunan and Ruban Kumar Rethinasabapathi, featuring in the event mainly due to the absence of regulars Satwiksairaj Rankireddy and Chirag Shetty, put up a fighting show before losing the men's doubles tie in three games. Sathish and Tanish, playing as partners this time around, suffered a somewhat similar fate.

Teen spirit: Yamal stands out to preserve Barca's CL dreams

AGENCIES @ Barcelona

FOR 22 minutes Barcelona did not seem to believe they would reach the Champions League final, and then Lamine Yamal decided enough was enough.

Inter Milan raced into a semifinal first leg two-goal lead, but the 17-year-old star's brilliance helped Barca come from behind to secure a 3-3 draw on Wednesday and leave the tie in equilibrium ahead of the return in Milan next Tuesday.

After Marcus Thuram and Denzel Dumfries produced two outstanding finishes even the most resolute fans started to wonder if this was a bridge too far. It was Barcelona's first semifinal since 2019, and the team powered by teen spirit, shorn of injured top goalscorer Robert Lewandowski came up against an experienced, wily side, runners up in 2023 and looking to go one better this time. It has been a decade since the Catalan giants last reached the final, winning in Berlin with Lionel Messi as their omnipotent leader, and Barcelona are dreaming of a return to Germany for the Munich final on May 31.

Fear tried to set in but Yamal was too quick for it. Three minutes after Inter's second, he struck. After all, he said on the eve of the game he had left his fears behind playing in the park in his hometown of Mataro. The winger, on his 100th appearance for the club, showed strength to shrug off Thuram, skill and speed to ditch Henrikh Mkhitaryan and produced a precise, lethal finish.

It sparked Barcelona's comeback, with Ferran Torres adding the second, and after Dumfries netted again for Inter, a Yann Sommer own goal left the tie even.

Lamine Yamal sparked Barca's fightback with a delightful goal | AP

Yamal hit the woodwork twice and tied Federico Dimarco in knots, with Inter sending several players to help the Italian out, fruitlessly. "I haven't done anything yet, I have so much ahead of me to do," warned Yamal after the game, speaking to CBS Sports.

"I have always thought (the quadruple was possible), I have a lot of trust in the team... I think we will go through."

After his devastating display, Inter manager Simeone Inzaghi said Yamal was a "phenomenon" and his own coach Hansi Flick a "genius", but most who see him on a regular basis were expecting this. "We know what Lamine is like, he doesn't surprise us... he's a very decisive player," said Torres. Raphinha, who forced Barca's third with a vicious strike which bounced in off the bar and then Yann Sommer, echoed those words.

"We all know the quality he has, how much he helps us," said the Brazilian.

Fresh from providing two superb assists in the Copa del Rey final as Barcelona beat Real Madrid, Yamal held his first ever pre-match press conference on Tuesday. He said he did not compare himself to Messi, even though everybody else does, and then he went on to score a goal typical of the Argentine. Like Messi so often did, the fearless teenager has a knack for delivering at key moments in the crucial games.

"In the big matches you see the quality of this player and he showed it today, it's really good to have him," said Flick, who credited Yamal with sparking the comeback.

DAY IN DIGITS

100 Yamal, 17, scored a superb solo goal on his 100th Barcelona game as the Catalans came back from two goals down and terrified Inter's defence throughout.

8 Before Wednesday's match, Inter had 8 clean sheets and had conceded just 5 goals.

Results: Semifinal (first leg): Barcelona 3-3 Inter

Mark Zuckerberg said the role of AI at Meta has evolved beyond simple code suggestions. The technology is now capable of handling more complex tasks, such as independent test execution and bug detection

'The future of commerce is conversational and GenAI will be a gamechanger'

UMA KANNAN @ Bengaluru

THE future of commerce is conversational as people are messaging businesses and they want in real-time, convenient, and personalised conversations. "And they want it all within the app they already use. WhatsApp, in particular, is at the heart of this transformation. Globally, 1 billion people message a business every week. Every day, we see over 600 million conversations between people and businesses on our platforms. In India, which is one of our largest markets, more than 60% of people on WhatsApp message a business account every single week — a clear sign that conversational platforms are becoming the new storefront," Ravi Garg, Director, Business Messaging, Meta in India, told TNIE.

From managing orders to offering personalised customer service within a WhatsApp chat, small businesses have started using the WhatsApp Business app. "It's not just businesses embracing WhatsApp — consumers, too, are increasingly seeking real-time, conversational interactions with businesses.. Whether it's accessing banking services, buying groceries, or raising service requests, people want convenience and immediacy in their conversations with a business," he said.

Nearly 95% of enterprises in India are familiar with GenAI, and over 80% plan to invest in it in the next 1–2 years. As GenAI gets embedded into conversational platforms, it will power smarter automation

— Ravi Garg, Director, Business Messaging, Meta in India

To meet the demand, it introduced the WhatsApp Business Platform for large businesses. Businesses are building end-to-end solutions on WhatsApp by combining automation, AI, and personalisation.

Garg points out that IndiGo has launched 6Eskai, its AI-powered conversational assistant on WhatsApp. 6Eskai enables customers to book tickets, check in, get boarding passes, track flights, and resolve queries via text or voice in English, Hindi, and Tamil. "Today, customers also want multiple options in how they chat with a business, especially when they have complicated travel requests or want to discuss opening a new account with their bank, a quick call can be the best way to get help," he said.

To address this, they are introducing the ability for people to now call businesses using the WhatsApp Business Platform with a quick tap. It has started testing this feature and will expand it to more businesses in the coming months.

Talking about Gen AI, he said the next phase of growth is Generative AI. "Nearly 95% of enterprises in India are familiar with GenAI, and over 80% plan to invest in it in the next 1–2 years. As GenAI gets embedded into conversational platforms, it will power smarter automation, unlock personalization at scale, and help businesses communicate across languages and markets more effortlessly than ever before," Garg said.

When asked how it is leveraging AI? Garg said they started by making it easy to activate AI directly from the WhatsApp Business app to help businesses more efficiently engage with their customers.

"We started testing this here in India with a very small number of businesses and the early results are really exciting. We'll start rolling this out to many more businesses here in India in the coming weeks," he said.

As any small business continues to grow, it often faces a challenge of managing a high volume of customer inquiries due to resource constraints. This is where GenAI will be a gamechanger and this is where we are testing the ability for a business to activate AI in their chats with customers to provide support and help sell their goods and services, he added.

SMARTPHONE MARKET SHIFTS TOWARD ULTRA-PREMIUM SEGMENT

GROWS 15% IN Q1 2025

RAKESH KUMAR @ New Delhi

INDIA'S smartphone market is increasingly moving towards the ultra-premium segment, registering a 15% year-on-year growth in the first quarter of 2025.

According to a report by Counterpoint Research, the average selling price of smartphones has registered a compound annual growth rate of 11% since the onset of the Covid pandemic. This trend reflects Indian consumers' willingness to spend more on premium devices priced above ₹45,000, with leading brands like Apple and Samsung seeing a surge in demand.

The report attributes this shift to improved affordability and the expansion of financing options, which have made high-end smartphones more accessible to a broader consumer base. The increasing demand for premium devices signals a broader change in consumer behaviour, with more Indian buyers seeking advanced features, cutting-edge technologies, and better overall value.

As a result, Apple recorded a 29% year-on-year growth in Q1 2025, achieving its highest-ever first-quarter shipment volume in India. The brand also led the market in terms of value, reinforcing its dominance in the ultra-premium segment. Samsung secured the second spot, supported by multiple launches across various price segments. The Galaxy S25 Ultra series stood out as a key contributor, driving the S series' highest-ever share within Samsung's premium portfolio. "In Q1 2025, India's smartphone market shifted its focus towards preparing for more sustainable and structured growth. Key brands, dealing with high inventory levels, prioritised clearing excess stock to stabilise operations and set a stronger foundation for the remainder of the year.

Despite this inventory adjustment, consumer demand for ultra-premium products remained strong," said Prachir Singh, senior research analyst at Counterpoint.

Top Five

Smartphone Brands – Q1 2025

In the first quarter of 2025, Vivo strengthened its lead in India's smartphone market, increasing its volume share from 19% in Q1 2024 to 22%. Samsung experienced a slight dip, with its share declining from 18% to 17%. OPPO maintained a steady 15% share across both quarters. Xiaomi saw a notable decline, with its share falling from 19% to 13%. Meanwhile, Realme's share grew marginally from 10% to 11%.

Other key insights

Nothing was the fastest-growing brand during the quarter, achieving a 156% YoY growth, driven by the success of its newly launched 3a series. This marked the fifth consecutive quarter where Nothing was India's fastest-growing smartphone brand.

- Motorola continued its upward trajectory with a 59% YoY increase, fueled largely by strong demand from offline channels.
- MediaTek led India's smartphone chipset market with a 45% share, followed by Qualcomm at 32%.
- 5G smartphones accounted for a record-high 87% of total shipments in Q1 2025. Notably, the sub-₹10,000 segment witnessed explosive four-digit YoY growth in 5G adoption, underlining the rapid penetration of 5G into the entry-level market.
- Offline channels remained dominant, contributing 65% of total market sales. Brands ramped up in-store promotions and regional marketing efforts, especially in Tier 2 and Tier 3 cities. Online sales held steady at 35%.

AI to write most of Meta's code within 18 months, says Zuckerberg

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @ New Delhi

META CEO Mark Zuckerberg has revealed that artificial intelligence will soon take over the majority of the coding responsibilities for the company's Llama project, with AI expected to write most of the code within the next 12 to 18 months. In a podcast interview with Dwarkesh Patel, Zuckerberg said AI is already performing at the level of an "average very good person" on a software team and will soon surpass even the top engineers. "I think sometime in the next 12 to 18 months, we will reach the point where most of these codes that are going towards these efforts will be written by AI," he said. "And I don't mean like autocomplete. Today, you have good autocomplete, where if you start writing, it [AI] can complete that section of the code. I mean, if you give it a goal, it can run tests, it can find issues, it will write higher quality code."

AI to Outperform Top Coders

Zuckerberg emphasised that the role of AI at Meta has evolved beyond simple code suggestions. The technology is now capable of handling more complex tasks, such as independent test execution and bug detection. "It will write higher quality code than an average very good person on the team already," he noted. This capability, he explained, goes far beyond today's autocomplete tools, and points toward a future where AI systems take on a majority of the software development workload.

Meta Builds In-House Coding Agents

The Meta CEO also outlined the company's efforts to develop internal AI agents specifically aimed at enhancing its Llama large language models. "We are working on a number of coding agents inside Meta," Zuckerberg said. "We're not trying to build a general developer tool. We're trying to build a coding agent and an AI research agent that basically advances Llama research specifically. It is fully plugged into our tool chain." He added that Meta is not pursuing enterprise software commercialisation in this space, but is focused on internal productivity and AI research acceleration.

Zuckerberg previously expressed a similar outlook earlier this year, stating that "we will get to a point where all the code in our apps and the AI it generates will also be written by AI engineers instead of people engineers." Meta's Llama models are part of its broader AI strategy to compete with leading players in the field. With AI set to become a key developer inside the company, human engineers may increasingly shift toward oversight, design, and long-term innovation.

Gartner: Less than 10% of firms have adopted safe enterprise browser

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @ Bengaluru

WITH threat actors frequently targeting employees with phishing attacks to steal credentials and bypass endpoint detection and response controls, there is a need for an additional layer of visibility and control within the web browser. Gartner estimates that by 2028, at least 25% of organisations will augment existing secure remote access and endpoint security tools by deploying at least one secure enterprise browser (SEB) technology to address specific gaps.

"Web browsers are the primary access method for most modern corporate applications and provide an endpoint-agnostic enterprise security control point," said Max Taggett, senior principal analyst at Gartner. "Security leaders can use a SEB to reduce risk and improve the digital experience," he added.

According to Gartner, only 10% of organisations have adopted SEBs so far. Firms that rely on SaaS applications, with minimal branch locations or cyber physical systems to secure, need a simpler method of managing security technology than traditional security stacks. SEBs fulfill that need. Also, SEBs enable segmented access from unmanaged or lightly managed end-user devices and bring-your-own PC, where deploying endpoint agents are inappropriate due to privacy or maintenance reasons."SEBs embed enterprise security controls into the native web browsing experience using a customised browser or extension for existing browsers, instead of adding bolt-on controls at endpoint or network layer," said Evgeny Mirolyubov, senior director analyst at Gartner.

Organisations that are deploying SEBs can

1. Enforce enterprise security policies & gain web traffic visibility without requiring in-line decryption, potentially improving application performance & latency.
2. Support the transition from legacy client applications to modern SaaS application delivery.
3. Complement or reduce reliance on VPNs and VDIs, and desktop as a service for organisations prioritising remote or third-party work and cloud delivery.
4. Augment anti-phishing and credential theft protection capabilities, such as protection against reuse of corporate credentials on unauthorised or phishing websites, on devices where browser usage is restricted to selected SEBs.
5. Enhance visibility and reporting of web application usage, performance and employee behavioural analytics for lightly managed or unmanaged devices, and for organisations without a mature DEX strategy.

TECHNOLOGY BUZZ

CMF launches CMF Phone 2 Pro, three new audio products

CMF, the sub-brand of London-based tech company Nothing, has launched four new products: CMF Phone 2 Pro, Buds 2, Buds 2 Plus, and Buds 2a. This comes on the heels of a strong Q1 for Nothing, with Counterpoint Research naming it the fastest-growing smartphone brand in India, recording 156% YoY growth — its fifth consecutive quarter in the top spot. CMF Phone 2 Pro features a sleek, lightweight design (7.8 mm, 185 g), a refined IP54-rated build, and a best-in-segment triple camera system, including a 50 MP main camera and 50 MP telephoto lens with up to 20x Ultra Zoom. It runs on the MediaTek Dimensity 7300 Pro 5G chip, with improved performance and battery life. The new CMF Buds caters to a range of users. Buds 2 offer hybrid ANC and Spatial Audio, Buds 2 Plus feature Hi-Res LDAC and EQ customization, while Buds 2a serve as a budget-friendly choice with 42 dB ANC sound.

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